Landmark Agreement Signed to Prevent Malaria in Pregnancy and Reduce Life-threatening Complications in sub-Saharan Africa

Madrid, Spain (May 11, 2017) – An ambitious effort has been launched to prevent malaria in pregnancy in communities in sub-Saharan Africa. This innovative initiative will complement existing antenatal care services and increase pregnant women’s opportunities to access care under a grant agreement signed today by Unitaid and Jhpiego, an international nonprofit health organization and affiliate of the Johns Hopkins University.

Unitaid is investing US $50 million to ensure that pregnant women in malaria-affected countries in sub-Saharan Africa have access to a preventive therapy for malaria known as “intermittent preventive treatment in pregnancy” or IPTp. The five-year project, to be implemented by Jhpiego, will increase IPTp coverage and expand antenatal care attendance in four African countries—the Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Mozambique and Nigeria.

The project—also known as the Transforming IPT for Optimal Pregnancy (TIPTOP)—will increase IPTp coverage through community-level distribution of quality-assured sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine (the medicine used for IPT). Jhpiego has partnered with the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal), which will lead the research and evaluation components of the project. The two organizations also will work in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and Medicines for Malaria Venture to achieve the desired results.

This community-based IPTp approach, which will augment and complement existing antenatal care services with the aim of reaching 400,000 pregnant women and their babies in the four African countries, will also produce the evidence needed for a potential update of WHO’s policy on IPTp.

In areas with high malaria transmission, pregnant women and young children are especially vulnerable to malaria infection and death. Although malaria is preventable and treatable, an estimated 429,000 people died from the disease in 2015, according to WHO. Moreover, malaria during pregnancy can lead to a number of negative consequences, including low birth-weights for
For more information go to www.jhpiego.org or contact Kristin Vibeke at 1-484-888-0277.

challenges of health in a globalized world.

up to contribute to the work undertaken by the international community to address the

between the "Ja Caixa" Foundation, academic institutions and government bodies. was set

The Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal), the result of an innovative alliance

About ISGlobal

care services for women and their families.

Implementing effective, low-cost, hands-on solutions to strengthen the delivery of health

University, has worked for 45 years to empower frontline health workers by designing and

Jhpiego, an international nonprofit health organization affiliated with the Johns Hopkins

About Jhpiego

goods," she said.

reduced deaths is achievable—and this partnership will go a long way toward achieving those

and stop malaria in pregnancy, "Preventing maternal and reducing malaria-

opportunity to demonstrate an innovative approach to address pregnant women’s needs

Dr. Leslie MacKuen, Jhpiego’s CEO and President, said the IPPfOP project offers an exciting

and insecticide resistance."

United continues to advance on all fronts by developing innovative tools to fight malaria

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this lifesaving medicine either in the community or through the antenatal services.

IPF deliver and demand to ensure no missed opportunities for pregnant women to receive

The United-funded IPPfOP project plans to engage community health workers to increase

coverage rates remained at just 31 percent in 20 African countries.

bodles and even still births. In some cases, malaria can be fatal for the mother. In 2015, IPPf