Malaria is one of Kenya's most pressing public health problems and is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality in the country, especially among children. The response to malaria consists of multiple forms of prevention and treatment, including bed nets, indoor residual spraying, rapid diagnostic testing, and artemisinin combination therapy. Improving the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of the malaria response is therefore of central importance to the health of Kenyans. *Value for Money Indicators for Malaria Investments in Kenya: Indicators, Definitions, and Data Sources*, a new report from the USAID-funded Health Policy Project, defines the first set of Value for Money (VFM) indicators for the malaria program in Kenya. These indicators will support national- and county-level public health officials and program implementers in monitoring the effectiveness and affordability of malaria service delivery, to ensure that funds to combat malaria are wisely spent.

This effort is very timely. As responsibilities for health services devolve to Kenya's 47 counties, the Division of Malaria Control (DOMC) in the Ministry of Health, Kenya, is implementing a VFM initiative with the support of the Health Policy Project (HPP). Using these indicators, the DOMC will be able to monitor and evaluate whether ongoing investments represent the best use of scarce resources, by evaluating program achievements every period against their costs, and comparing the value of the indicators to pre-established benchmarks. Donor agencies, such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the President's Malaria Initiative, are putting a special emphasis on VFM and aim to “invest strategically in areas with high potential for impact and strong value for money.”

The report presents a set of VFM indicators that is entirely novel. HPP is providing support to Kenya's DOMC to use these indicators in 2013 for the first time. The current report defines outcome and impact indicators; provides information on identifying data sources, method of measurement, frequency of reporting, and interpretation of results; and proposes a methodology for allocating program management and overhead costs. The indicators can be used for reporting to domestic and external stakeholders as a part of general monitoring and evaluation, for accountability, and for internal programmatic tracking. The report may also be applicable to other developing countries that seek to incorporate similar VFM principles into their malaria programs.

*Value for Money Indicators for Malaria Investments in Kenya: Indicators, Definitions, and Data Sources* will be available at: [http://www.healthpolicyproject.com?zp=209](http://www.healthpolicyproject.com?zp=209).

This report is the first in a series. HPP will release VFM indicators for HIV in fall 2013, based on a request from the National AIDS and STI Control Programme (NASCOP) of the Ministry of Health.