

## AngloGold Ashanti Iduapriem Mine

### Company Profile

Formed in 2006, following a merger between AngloGold and Ashanti Goldfields companies, AngloGold Ashanti Limited became the third-largest gold producer in the world, with operations in Ghana's Western Region and headquarters in South Africa. In total, the company has 17 mines in nine countries, as well as several exploration programs in both established and new gold producing regions of the world. In Ghana, AngloGold owns two mines—Iduapriem and Obuasi—in the Western and Ashanti Regions. It works in 19 communities within Tarkwa Nsuaem Municipality.



### Background

For more than a decade, AngloGold Ashanti Limited has been commended for its remarkable contributions to malaria control on its mine and in the surrounding communities in Obuasi. In 2005, it introduced an extensive malaria program in Obuasi that recorded declines of more than 80% in malaria incidence, absenteeism, and malaria treatment costs for mine employees between 2005 and 2009.<sup>1</sup> The success of the Obuasi program gained worldwide notoriety; later, the Global Fund awarded a non-profit arm of the company (AGAMAL) a US\$138 million grant to implement IRS activities in Ghana, making it the first private sector entity in Africa to be a Global Fund principal recipient. Despite the success of AngloGold's program in Obuasi, minimal efforts for malaria control were deployed at AngloGold's Iduapriem mine. Until 2017, malaria control efforts at Iduapriem were limited to periodic indoor residual spraying in company buildings.

In recent years, however, the Iduapriem mine has paid attention to the effects of rising malaria costs. Between

2015 and 2016, malaria incidence among AngloGold Ashanti's employees and contractors increased by more than half—from 172 to 263 confirmed cases.<sup>2</sup> After the first half of 2017, 218 new cases were recorded. The increase in malaria cases between 2015 and 2016 contributed to an equally significant increase in absenteeism within the same period. Sickness leave days doubled—from 63 days to 116 days during 2015 to 2016. Data from a 2016 baseline survey in surrounding communities revealed that malaria caused 57.9% of household illnesses.<sup>3</sup>

### Malaria Interventions

These alarming figures on employee malaria cases and absenteeism motivated the mine to employ a more comprehensive approach. The company embarked on a public-private partnership between the Iduapriem mine and the Tarkwa Nsuaem Municipal Health Directorate of the Ghana Health Services. AngloGold Iduapriem supplied employees, contractors and host communities with 12,500 insecticide treated nets (ITNs), and trained community health volunteers on malaria prevention. The Tarkwa

Nsuaem Municipal health Directorate supported the program with an additional 5,000 ITNs. On July 13, 2017, AngloGold Iduapriem signed on to the Malaria Safe Initiative to launch its malaria control program for employees and surrounding communities.

Funded by the United Kingdom of Department for International Development, the Private Sector Malaria

### AngloGold's Success Story in Obuasi

In 2005, AngloGold Ashanti built a partnership with the Ghanaian government to implement a malaria control program. The company's move was in response to the growing awareness of the devastating effects of malaria on the community. In 2004, malaria cases accounted for 22% of all deaths in the Obuasi community. Of all outpatient cases, 12,000 were linked to malaria. The mine hospital saw 6,800 malaria patients per month out of a total workforce of 8,000. The company introduced an integrated program that targeted not just mine workers but also surrounding villages. The program consisted of four main elements:

- indoor residual spraying, larviciding, distribution of ITNs
- early and effective diagnosis with rapid diagnostic tests and treatment of confirmed cases with artemisinin-based combination therapy
- community awareness and education
- malaria surveillance

The program impacts were far reaching. In four years, the average monthly malaria cases in AngloGold's hospitals declined by 83%—from 6,800 to 1,150 cases. Similarly, absenteeism dropped by 96%, from 6,983 days lost in 2005 to 282 days lost in 2009. Average monthly medication costs were also reduced by 82%, from US\$55,000 to \$9,800.

These results helped secure Ghana a scale up grant of US\$138 million from the Global Fund. AngloGold Ashanti's malaria control program was the principal recipient of the grant's fund, making it the first time a private company will perform a lead role for a Global Fund grant in Africa.

(Eric Mouzin et al. 2011. Business investing in malaria control: economic returns and a healthy workforce for Africa. (Progress & impact series, n. 6). <https://endmalaria.org/sites/default/files/uploads/2017/12/6-Business-Investing-in-Malaria-Control.pdf>

Prevention (PSMP) project (2016-2019) designed Malaria Safe to help companies reduce the burden of malaria for their workforces and communities. Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs is the PSMP implementer.

Since then, the mine has adopted a mix of activities, including sensitizing and educating employees and community members on malaria and ITN use; distributing ITNs; and indoor residual spraying in selected areas within the mine and in the host communities. AngloGold Iduapriem is also working closely with the Malaria Safe support team, through PSMP, to monitor the impact of the company's malaria activities through a Malaria Safe dashboard tracking system. The impact will inform the company's plans to scale up its efforts to target the additional three host communities in 2018, for a total of 19 beneficiary communities.

The following table lists the malaria control interventions introduced by AngloGold's Iduapriem mine. They are listed across the four Malaria Safe pillars.

AngloGold Iduapriem has made sweeping investments in malaria control in just its launch year. Already a giant in the global gold mining industry, the company has set a remarkable example for private sector workplace malaria control for other players in the mining field. "This is a clear indication of how mining can bring value to the lives of the people in host communities and beyond," said Chief Executive Officer of Ghana Chamber of Mines, Mr. Sulemanu Koney.

Malaria Safe Pillar	Interventions
Education	Holds programs for sensitizing employees and host communities on malaria.
Protection	Purchased and distributed 12,500 ITNs to employees and their dependents, and 16 host communities, with plans to scale up to 19 communities.
	Administers indoor residual spraying on mines and in surrounding communities.
Visibility	Community-based malaria awareness campaigns.
	Publicity for malaria campaign launch.
Championing	Mobilized support from Municipal Health Directorate, PSMP, and other municipal partners.



PSMP is a three-year project funded by the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) and operated by the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs (CCP). The purpose of the PSMP is to catalyze private sector engagement in malaria control, in particular in the supply and distribution of Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLIN).

<sup>1</sup> Rollback Malaria. (2011). Business Investing in Malaria Control: Economic Returns and a Healthy Workforce for Africa. Progress Impact Series, No.6.

<sup>2</sup> All data and information presented came from the press release for the Malaria Control Program launch and from data provided by the sustainability department.

<sup>3</sup> Information from 2017 press release on the launch of AngloGold Ashanti's malaria control program in its Iduapriem mine.