

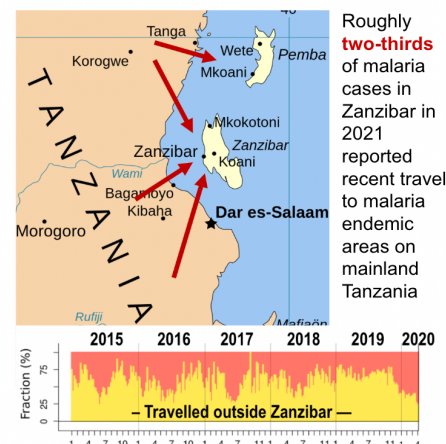
PRACTICUM DESCRIPTION



PROGRAM TITLE: Malaria in Zanzibar: The last mile of malaria elimination

PRIMARY CONTACT: Jessica Lin, MD MSCR
Associate Professor
Institute of Global Health & Infectious Diseases
jessica_lin@med.unc.edu

BACKGROUND: Combining effective interventions and political will, the Zanzibar archipelago off Tanzania's mainland drastically reduced malaria transmission to pre-elimination levels by 2015. Further progress has stalled, however, with the "last mile of elimination" made difficult by Zanzibar's high connectivity to mainland Tanzania. Lying just 36.5km from the coast of Tanzania, with large ferries transporting ~18,000 passengers daily, Zanzibar remains vulnerable to malaria importation through human movement flow. In 2021, two-thirds of malaria cases in Zanzibar reported recent travel to mainland destinations. Building upon a longstanding partnership with the Zanzibar Malaria Elimination Program (ZAMEP), UNC and RTI experts in global health, malaria epidemiology, and geospatial health research are working together to quantify and map the human mobility that underlies malaria importation to Zanzibar, in order to design evidence-based interventions.

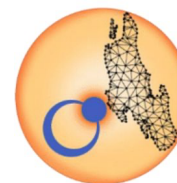


OPPORTUNITY: Students interested will have the opportunity to conduct fieldwork and pursue research on the ground with our partners in Zanzibar. There are two potential projects suitable for those with relevant background or skills. Please note that students will be expected to work with the study PI to solicit available funding.

ZIM-RTI Study - Survey and qualitative research

Interventions to reduce imported malaria cases could involve targeting high-risk groups for pre-travel prophylaxis, screening and treatment upon return to Zanzibar, and/or presumptive treatment post-travel, along with other educational and personal protective measures. We will assess the acceptability of potential interventions to travelers and other stakeholders.

- Perform survey-based research among travelers alongside ZAMEP's district malaria surveillance officers.
- Facilitate key informant interviews with community leaders, ZAMEP staff, ferry terminal personnel, and local leaders of trade organization in key high-risk occupations (fishermen, agricultural small business, students).



**Zanzibar and
Importation of
Malaria**

We are looking for students with any of the following:

- Experience with survey design, IRB applications, and/or qualitative research
- Swahili language skills
- Previous experience living or working in Sub-Saharan Africa

Severe malaria in Zanzibar – retrospective review

As malaria has declined on Zanzibar, populations with much less exposure to malaria may have little immunity as well as less knowledge of malaria, and as a result, be more vulnerable to severe disease. At the same time, the medical community is less knowledgeable about severe malaria and delays in diagnosis or prompt care can lead to deaths. Continued vigilance and education are needed to mitigate these consequences of overall progress in malaria control and elimination.

- Work with ZAMEP to perform a retrospective review of severe malaria cases and malaria deaths over the past 10-15 years.

