

Malaria and the Global Fund

The Global Fund has approved \$5.3 billion for malaria programs in 83 countries. This accounts for nearly two-thirds of all funding provided by donors for malaria in the world. With a total of \$2.9 billion disbursed to countries to date, Global Fund financing has:

- Distributed 122 million insecticide-treated nets to protect families from malaria;
- Treated 140 million cases of malaria; and
- Supported 24.7 million occurrences of indoor residual spraying of insecticides inside dwellings.

Today, 40% of the world's population is exposed to malaria. While malaria has been eliminated from Europe, North America and other industrialized regions, it is still prevalent in many of the poorest areas of the world. The Global Fund is working to fight malaria through prevention and treatment programs in these poor areas, where malaria's toll is greatest.

The Crisis of Malaria

Malaria is a parasitic disease that is transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito and causes fever, headache and vomiting. If it is not treated, malaria can rapidly become life-threatening, disrupting the blood supply to vital organs. Malaria is most common in rural areas.

- There were an estimated 247 million malaria cases in 2006.
- Nearly one million people die of malaria each year, the vast majority of them children under the age of five in Africa. This means one African child dies every 30 seconds from a mosquito bite.
- The most effective malaria treatment costs about \$2.

Malaria Begets Poverty

Because treatment is relatively inexpensive, malaria affects the world's poorest people almost exclusively.

- **An economic cost** – Malaria costs African countries an estimated \$12 billion in lost economic productivity each year. The approximately 250 million people who fall sick each year are unable to work or go to school. Additionally, healthy family members may stay home to take care of the ill, losing their wages as well, and poor families often spend what little they have on treatment.
- **A threat to pregnant women** – Pregnant women and unborn children are particularly vulnerable to malaria due to their compromised immune systems. Suffering from malaria during pregnancy is a major cause of delivery complications including anemia and low birth weights.
- **A threat to children** – Malaria also threatens small children due to their developing immune systems. In fact, malaria accounts for one in five of all childhood deaths in Africa. Children who survive the disease can be left with life-long disabilities.

Eliminating Malaria is Possible

Malaria is a preventable, treatable and curable disease. It is best controlled through a combination of three methods: spraying with insecticides, providing families with insecticide-treated netting and treating infections with effective drugs. The Global Fund is not only at the forefront of efforts to combine all three methods of control, it is also the leading public financier of effective malaria medicine distribution throughout the world.

Progress in the Fight against Malaria

Examples of Global Fund success in fighting malaria are already evident:

- Malaria incidence in the Lubombo Region of southern Africa has been reduced by almost 90% thanks to Global Fund financing of a multi-country effort.
- Zanzibar has seen a 52% decline in child mortality from 2002 to 2005; this is in part due to the Global Fund's work to introduce ACT treatment in 2003 and coverage of 90% of the population with nets and household spraying.