

Invest in the future: Defeat malaria

2015: PROGRESS, CHALLENGES, AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST MALARIA



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PROGRESS

Thanks to concerted action and investment, the world is making groundbreaking progress towards eliminating malaria.

- **Hundreds of millions of people have been reached with effective tools and strategies.** Working together, endemic countries, donors, organizations and communities have increased access to **malaria prevention, diagnosis and treatment**.
- **We are accelerating progress to save lives**, with malaria death rates amongst young children more than **halved** and over **4.3 million lives saved** since 2001.¹
- **The malaria map is shrinking: Over 100 countries are already free from malaria, at least 55 countries are on track to reduce malaria incidence by 75% by 2015**, and 26 countries have begun working to eliminate the disease entirely.² New regional commitments have been made to eliminate malaria in Mesoamerica, Asia Pacific and Africa.

OPPORTUNITY

Defeating malaria is critical to ending poverty and improving maternal and child health.

- **Sixty-four countries are on track to achieve the malaria-specific Millennium Development Goal (MDG 6)** to have halted and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria by 2015.³ Less malaria means **less newborn, infant and maternal mortality (MDGs 4 and 5)**, fewer days missed at school and work, **more productive communities, and stronger economies**.
- Lives saved from malaria are estimated to account for **20% of all progress in reducing child mortality** in sub-Saharan Africa since 2000, with efforts to prevent malaria in pregnancy alone **averting 94,000 newborn deaths** between 2009 and 2012.⁴

CHALLENGE

- Malaria accounts for 40% of all public health spending⁵; **regions that have decreased malaria have seen substantial economic gains**, with economic growth more than **five times higher** in non-endemic countries.⁶
- **Eliminating malaria is critical** to achieving the **broader development targets** to be set by the Sustainable Development Goals, and must remain a key priority for global development community. As malaria continues to decrease, transmission will become **increasingly focal, rural, and found along national borders**. Targeting all those at risk is vital.

We must sustain robust financial investment, political will, and scientific innovation to ensure continued success.

- **The continued development of new solutions and strategies** – including next-generation drugs, diagnostics, and vaccines – is critical if we are to further **accelerate gains** and mitigate the **threat of drug and insecticide resistance**.
- **Dependable resources are critical**. Whilst both international and domestic funding to fight malaria **increased almost every year** between 2005 and 2014, **financial gaps remain the greatest threat** to progress.
- **Progress must be accelerated, or the world will risk losing record gains**. Since the 1930s, there have been 75 documented resurgences of malaria reported in 61 countries, the **majority linked to decreased funding** for malaria control and prevention.⁷

Winning the fight against malaria means that families, communities, and countries will thrive as never before.

- **Investment in the malaria fight is one of the best buys in global health**. The tools are cost-effective and the return on investment is high, with the world standing to **gain an estimated US\$270 billion** by 2030 through **eliminating the disease in sub-Saharan Africa alone**.⁸
- **To succeed, we must prove ourselves as resilient and adaptive in our global malaria response as the parasite itself**. By working together we can **put an end to this needless suffering** and strengthen the potential of individuals, communities and countries to achieve our ultimate goal – **a world free from malaria**.

Sources

^{1,2,3} WHO World Malaria Report 2014

⁴ The Contribution of Malaria Control to Maternal and Newborn Health, RBM P&I Series, July 2014, WHO.

⁵ The Economic Case for Combating Malaria, AJTMH, November 2013, Purdy, et al.

^{6,8} Action and Investment to Defeat Malaria (AIM) 2016-2030 – For a Malaria-Free World, draft April 2015.

⁷ Malaria resurgence: a systematic review and assessment of its causes, Malaria Journal, April 2012, Cohen, et al.

#DefeatMalaria