

MALARIA

What You Should Know

Malaria is a deadly mosquito-borne disease. Malaria is a serious and often fatal disease caused by a bite from a mosquito infected with the malaria parasite. People with malaria suffer from fevers, shaking, chills, flu-like symptoms and, in severe cases, meningitis or death. Malaria typically occurs in tropical and subtropical areas of the world, putting more than half of the world's population at risk.

Malaria deaths increased due to lack of simple, cost-effective tools. In 2020, there were an estimated 241 million new cases of malaria, resulting in approximately 627,000 deaths worldwide. Deaths increased by 12% for the first time in many years and children under age 5 accounted for 77% of these fatalities in

2020. One child now dies every minute instead of every two minutes due to lack of simple, cost-effective tools like an insecticide treated net or a course of treatment.¹

U.S. investments in malaria have saved millions of lives. Through the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), the United States has saved 10.6 million lives and prevented 1.7 billion infections since 2000 by providing 421.8 million bednets, 766 million rapid tests, 838.5 million medicines, and 2.1 million health worker trainings.² Additionally, the U.S. contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria has helped reduce malaria by 26% in countries where the Fund invests.³

Congressional Calls to Action

Ending malaria means the end of recurring costs for treatment and control of malaria, to missed school and workdays, and to the needless deaths and disability of millions. Renewed enthusiasm and funding are critical to reaching the long-term goal of disease eradication.

Maintain strong, bipartisan support for PMI and the Global Fund.

PMI partner countries have driven a 26% decline in malaria case rates and 43% decline in malaria death rates.⁴ Global Fund investment prevented an increase of malaria deaths by 84% over the same period in places where the Fund operates. With increased exposure to mosquito-borne diseases due to climate changes and setbacks to malaria programs due to COVID-19, robust continued support is necessary by the United States. While many of the 87 countries where malaria is endemic are progressing toward elimination, others are experiencing plateaued progress. Historically, gains made have proven fragile and backsliding is possible without sufficient support.⁵

Increased funding for programs that spur innovation for next generation tools necessary to combat insecticide-resistant mosquitoes.

Continuing to invest in the research and development (R&D) of new drugs, insecticides, and vaccines holds the promise of controlling and ultimately eliminating malaria. This support will also help recruit and train a community health workforce capable of delivering these lifesaving commodities.

Why is this investment important?

The U.S. is the global leader in the fight against malaria. U.S. support has facilitated the implementation of malaria prevention and treatment activities worldwide, as well as the development of malaria vaccines, antimalarial drugs, diagnostics, insecticides, and other related research. The remarkable progress achieved to-date in fighting malaria is the result of coordinated action between U.S. bilateral and multilateral programs, interagency cooperation, country-coordinating mechanisms, and private sector partners.

Malaria investments don't occur in a vacuum. They have secondary and tertiary effects on the greater

health system within an endemic country, all while elevating a people's economic and educational opportunities. Decreasing malarial infections means greater health system capacity, lower health care costs, higher productivity from a workforce, economic empowerment, and stability and increased educational access.⁶ It also creates a blueprint that can be used against other diseases or poverty and emergent disease outbreaks.

Only with sustained support from U.S. malaria programs, coupled with the use of existing tools and the creation of new ones, will we be able to eradicate malaria for good.



Malaria investments create a blueprint that can be used against other diseases or poverty and emergency disease outbreaks.

Resources

World Malaria Report 2021 (WHO): <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/350147>

PMI 16th Annual Report to Congress (U.S. President's Malaria Initiative - PMI): <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USAID-PMI-Report-2022.pdf>

Statistics on Malaria (Global Fund): <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/malaria/>

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Citations

1. World Health Organization (WHO). "World Malaria Report 2021. <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/350147>.
2. U.S. President's Malaria Initiative. "Impact." <https://www.pmi.gov/impact/>
3. The Global Fund. "Malaria." <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/malaria/>
4. U.S. President's Malaria Initiative. "Impact." <https://www.pmi.gov/impact/><https://www.pmi.gov/impact/>
5. The Global Fund. "Malaria." <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/malaria/>
6. WHO. A report of the Strategic Advisory Group on Malaria Eradication. 2020. <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/331795/9789240003675-eng.pdf>