



Malaria Regional Factsheet June 2021

1. Malaria: Cases and Deaths, WHO estimates, 2020



Trends in malaria number of cases and deaths



In the African Region, at the end of 2019, according to 2020 World Malaria Report (WMR), about 215 million people were infected with malaria; this represented 16 million more new cases compared to 2015. 384 000 people have died of Malaria.

However, since 2015, the number of deaths has fallen by about **2% annually**.





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is still an

urgent public health priority.

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Despite the considerable progress made since 2000, the goal of the Global Technical Strategy (2016 - 2030) of reducing malaria cases and mortality at least 90% compared to 2015 will not be achieved regionally.

However, seven countries (**Botswana, Cabo Verde, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Namibia and South Africa**) in the Region were on track to reduce case incidence by \geq 40% by 2020, realizing the milestones 2020. So, in order to achieve this 2030 objective, efforts must be multiplied by 10 which represent an annual reduction in mortality of about 21% in the African Region.







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High burden to high impact (HBHI) approach, 2019

In November 2018, WHO and the RBM Partnership to End Malaria launched the high burden to high impact (HBHI) country-led approach, as a mechanism to support the 11 highest burden countries to get back on track to achieve the GTS 2025 milestones of reducing case incidence et mortality rate by ≥75% by 2025. The approach includes the four key response elements: **Political will, strategic information, better guidance and coordinated response**.

These 11 countries of the world of which 10 are in Africa (**Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania**) account for 70% of the global estimated case burden and 71% of global estimated deaths from malaria. Several countries with a smaller population but with high malaria incidence have also adopted the HBHI approach. HBHI: a targeted malaria response to get countries back on track to achieve the GTS 2025 milestones



2. Malaria cases and deaths averted, WHO estimates, 2020



In the African Region, an estimated **1.23 billion** malaria cases and **7.14 million** malaria deaths have been **averted** in the period 2000–2019. This represented **39 malaria cases** averted **every second** and **3 deaths** avoided **every two minutes** in the same period.

Many more pregnant women and children in the African Region are sleeping under insecticidetreated nets, **but the goal of universal coverage of 100% is still far from reach**.





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3. Burden of malaria in pregnancy, WHO estimates, 2020

In 2019, in **33 moderate to high transmission countries** in the WHO African Region, there were an estimated **33 million pregnancies**, of which **35% (12 million)** were exposed to malaria infection during pregnancy. And It is estimated that malaria infection during pregnancy resulted in **822 000** children with **Iow birthweight**. In addition, if up to **80%** of pregnant women who reported using antenatal care (ANC) services once were to receive one dose of intermittent preventive treatment in pregnancy (IPTp), an additional **56 000 low birthweights** would be averted.

4. Symptoms, risks and transmission Infected liver cells WHAT IS MALARIA? Malaria is a SERIOUS DISEASE caused by parasites, which are First Infected infected red bloc spread through the bites of person cells INFECTED MOSQUITOES Malaria Transmission Cycle Second First infected infected mosquito mosquito Second infected person SYMPTOMS In most cases, malaria is transmitted through the bites of female *Anopheles mosquitoes*. There are more than 400 different species of Anopheles mosquito; around 30 are malaria vectors of major importance. Anopheles *funestus* and Anopheles Fever Sweating Vomiting Shaking gambiae are the most virulent in Africa. (Rigors) All the important vector species bite between **dusk** and dawn. The intensity of transmission depends on factors related to the parasite, the vector, the human host, and the environment. The long lifespan and strong human-biting habit of the African vector species is the main reason why approximately 90% Fatigue Nausea Diarrhoea Headache of the world's malaria cases are in Africa.





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Transmission also depends on climatic conditions that may affect the number and survival of mosquitoes, such as rainfall patterns, temperature and humidity.

5. Prevention, diagnosis and treatment, WHO estimates, 2020

Sleeping under an **insecticide-treated net (ITN)** can reduce contact between mosquitoes and humans by providing both a physical barrier and an insecticidal effect. Thus, in **2019**, an estimated **46%** of all people at risk of malaria in Africa were protected by an insecticide-treated net, compared to **2% in 2000** and **145 million** of **Long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs)** have been sold or delivered.

Indoor spraying with residual insecticides Indoor residual spraying (IRS) with insecticides is another powerful way to rapidly reduce malaria. So, in the same year (2019), about 44.5 million of people have been protected by Indoor residual spraying (IRS).

Early diagnosis and treatment of malaria reduces disease and prevents deaths. It also contributes to reducing malaria transmission. The best available treatment, in 2019 particularly for P. falciparum malaria, is **artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT).** This is how 28.2 **million** malaria rapid diagnostic

tests (RDTs) have been distributed and **212 million** of any first-line treatment courses delivered (including artemisininbased combination therapy (ACT).

However, ITN coverage has been at a standstill since 2016.Indoor spraying with residual insecticides Indoor residual spraying (IRS) with insecticides is another powerful way to rapidly reduce malaria transmission. It involves spraying the inside of housing structures with an insecticide, typically once or twice per year. To confer significant community protection, IRS should be implemented at a high level of coverage. Globally, IRS protection declined from a peak of **5% in 2010 to 2% in 2019**, with decreases seen across all WHO regions, apart from the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region. The declines in IRS coverage are occurring as countries switch from pyrethroid insecticides to more expensive alternatives to mitigate mosquito resistance to pyrethroids.

Many Malaria cases and deaths are

PREVENTABLE

Prevention methods include



TRY TO AVOID...

Being outside from DUSK TO DAWN



Mosquito breeding areas such as STAGNANT WATERS



In 2019, more than three quarters of the African Region's population was at risk of malaria. Some population groups are at considerably higher risk of contracting malaria, and developing severe disease. than others. These include infants, children under 5 years of age, pregnant women and patients with HIV/AIDS, as well as nonimmune migrants, mobile populations and travelers. National malaria control programmes need to take special measures to protect these population groups from malaria infection, taking into consideration their specific circumstances.





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The proportion of pregnant women receiving 3 or more doses of malaria preventive therapy in Africa has increased considerably, **but we must do better.**

6. Investments and Elimination, WHO estimates, 2020



Despite the progress made since 2010 (**increase 2010-2019: 22%**), funding for malaria falls far off target. The malaria funding sources were: **Global Fund**: Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and

Malaria;

World Bank;

UK: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; **USAID**: United States Agency for International Development. **Domestic** and **Other**.



Acceleration to Elimination

Countries with subnational/territorial elimination programme: Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal and United Republic of Tanzania (Zanzibar) Countries with nationwide elimination programme: Cabo Verde Zero indigenous cases for 3 consecutive years (2017, 2018 and 2019): Algeria Zero indigenous cases in 2019: Cabo Verde Certified as malaria free since 2010: Algeria (since May 2019).





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7. Research and COVID-19 Pandemic, WHO estimates, 2020



communicable diseases.

of confirmed lumefantrine resistance in Africa. For all other medicines, treatment failure rates remain below 10%.