

Malaria Fact Sheet

Who Malaria Affects

- ✓ While malaria has been eliminated from many developed countries with temperate climates, the disease remains a major health threat in more than 100 countries and territories, leaving more than 40 percent of the world's population at risk.
- ✓ Each year, there are 350 to 500 million clinical cases of malaria and an estimated 1 million deaths result from the disease. Sub-Saharan Africa remains hardest hit by malaria, accounting for approximately 90 percent of all malaria-related deaths.
- ✓ Malaria ranks as the leading cause of childhood death under five in Africa. Every 30 seconds a child dies of malaria; 3,000 children die daily from the disease. Malaria accounts for 20 percent of under-five mortality in Africa and 75 percent of all malarial deaths occur in children in Africa.
- ✓ People who have little or no acquired immunity to malaria, such as young children and pregnant women, are most likely to become severely ill and die. Pregnant women are up to three times more likely to develop serious malaria as other adults.

Malaria by the Numbers

- ✓ According to the 2005 World Malaria Report, an estimated \$3.2 billion per year is needed to effectively combat malaria globally. In 2004, \$600 million dollars was spent to reduce the burden of malaria.
- ✓ In addition to the toll on human health, malaria exacts a significant economic toll as well. Malaria is estimated to cost Africa more than \$12 billion annually in health care and lost productivity. African countries where malaria is endemic have growth rates up to 1.3% lower than non-endemic regions.

Treatment for Malaria

- ✓ Malaria is a devastating disease – all the more so because it is entirely preventable. Long-lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLINs) offer a primary wall of defense, lasting for up to five years and providing a protective barrier against mosquitoes at night, when the vast majority of transmissions occur. Insecticide-treated nets have been shown to reduce all-cause mortality in children under five by approximately 20 percent, which would translate to the prevention of almost 500,000 deaths a year in sub-Saharan Africa.
- ✓ Defeating malaria is an urgent calling and an achievable goal. We have all but eliminated malaria in many regions of the world – for example, the United States, the Panama Canal, Vietnam, and most recently, the Tanzanian island of Zanzibar – and with the help of people across the United States and around the world, we can bring this disease under control.