

“stop the spread of diseases”



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Malaria

1. **Malaria is both preventable and curable.**
2. Malaria causes an average loss of 1.3 per cent annual economic growth in countries with intense transmission. Malaria traps families and communities in a downward spiral of poverty, disproportionately affecting marginalized populations and poor people who cannot afford treatment or who have limited access to health care. Malaria has lifelong effects through increased poverty, impaired learning and decreased attendance in schools and the workplace. (WHO 2007)
3. Malaria thrives in certain conditions: Hot, humid and wet climates encourage mosquitoes' breeding habits. Warm, stagnant water provides a perfect breeding ground for malaria-carrying mosquitoes.
4. **Each year, nearly 500 million people contract malaria.** (US Center for Disease Control and Prevention 2007)
5. Over one million people die of malaria every year, mostly children in sub-Saharan Africa. That's over 2,700 deaths per day, or one every 30 seconds. (US CDCP 2007)
6. Pregnant women are more susceptible to malaria. In malaria-endemic countries, P. Falciparum malaria contributes to 8-14 per cent of low birth weight, which in turn decreases the chance of a baby's survival. (USCDCP 2007)
7. Malaria is a disease which can be transmitted to people of all ages (although infants, young children and pregnant women are most susceptible). It is caused by parasites of the species Plasmodium that are spread from person to person through the bites of infected mosquitoes. (World Health Organization 2007)
8. The common first symptoms – fever, headache, chills, and vomiting – appear 10-15 days after a person is infected. If not treated promptly with effective medicines, malaria can cause severe illness that is often fatal. (WHO 2007)
9. **Approximately 40 per cent of the world's population, mostly those living in developing countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, are at risk of malaria.** (WHO 2007)
10. Epidemics can occur in cases where there is a natural disaster or emergency (like a flood), or if an outbreak occurs in areas where people have little exposure or immunity to the parasite. (WHO 2007)
11. Malaria can be easily prevented with insecticide-treated bed nets, preventive treatment in pregnancy, and anti-malarial drug combination therapy. Control of mosquito populations also prevents the spread of malaria. (WHO 2003)
12. **Malaria is easily cured, if detected early and treated promptly with medication.**
13. The rapid spread of resistance to anti-malarial drugs, coupled with widespread poverty, weak health infrastructure, and sometimes civil unrest, mean that mortality from malaria in Africa continues to rise. (WHO 2003)
14. Malaria can be exacerbated as a result of poor water management and storage, inadequate housing, deforestation and loss of biodiversity. (WHO 2005)
15. **Nets can cost as little as US\$1.70, while a year's supply of insecticide to re-treat a net costs from US\$0.30 to US\$0.60.** (WHO 2003)
16. **The average cost for potentially life-saving treatments of malaria are estimated to be US\$0.13 for chloroquine, US\$0.14 for sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine, and US\$2.68 for a seven-day course of quinine.**

* Roll Back Malaria is a global partnership initiated by WHO, UNDP, UNICEF and the World Bank in 1998. It seeks to work with governments, other development agencies, NGOs and private sector companies to reduce the human and socioeconomic costs of malaria. Find out more at www.rbm.who.int