



OFFICE OF
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S SPECIAL ENVOY FOR MALARIA
UNITED NATIONS

EMBARGOED UNTIL 9:30 AM EST
DECEMBER 14, 2010

Contact:
212-307-2527
shightower@amelior.org

December 14, 2010

**2010 WHO Malaria Report Announces Decline in Incidence and Mortality;
Significantly Expanded Access to Lifesaving Interventions**

*Indicates United Nations Target of Universal Coverage of Malaria Prevention Interventions on Track,
Instilling Confidence in the Achievability of the 2015 Target of Ending Malaria Deaths.*

New York/Geneva - World Health Organization Director-General Margaret Chan, was joined by the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Malaria, Ray Chambers, to announce the release of the WHO *World Malaria Report 2010*.

According to the report, malaria-related deaths have declined by 10% between 2008 and 2009, falling from 863,000 to 781,000. In eleven African countries, deaths from malaria have dropped by more than 50% compared to the year 2000. This corresponds with a substantial increase in access to life-saving malaria control interventions, in accordance with the Secretary-General's goal to provide universal coverage of essential malaria control interventions for all 700 million people determined to be at risk of malaria in Africa.

Employing the metric of one net for two people, the target of 350 million nets was established when the goal was announced in 2008. By the end of 2010, 289 million nets will have been delivered since 2008, and taking into account the application of indoor residual spraying in certain areas, projections indicate that enough nets and/or spraying will have been delivered to 90 percent of the target population.

"The *2010 World Malaria Report* documents international success in fighting a disease that takes its heaviest toll on poor and vulnerable populations," said the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon in a written statement. "As such, it contains valuable lessons on how the international community can achieve even greater advances against malaria and make inroads against other global threats."

./..

While virtually all nets needed for universal coverage are already financed, external factors have extended the duration of the distribution phase, and net deliveries will continue into the early part of 2011, when the universal coverage target is set to be reached. Maintaining coverage and ensuring high levels of utilization, while increasing efforts to expand access to effective treatment and diagnosis will continue to be necessary in order to achieve the Secretary-General's goal of reaching near-zero malaria deaths by December 31, 2015.

"The phenomenal expansion in access to malaria control interventions is translating directly into lives saved, as the WHO *World Malaria Report 2010* clearly indicates," said Ray Chambers, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Malaria. "The strategic scale-up that is eroding malaria's influence is a critical step in the effort to combat poverty related health threats. By maintaining these essential gains, we can end malaria deaths by 2015."

"The results set out in this report are the best seen in decades," said WHO Director-General Margaret Chan. "After so many years of deterioration and stagnation in the malaria situation, countries and their development partners are now on the offensive. Current strategies work."

###

Statements of Support

Awa Marie Coll-Seck, Roll Back Malaria Partnership

“The global malaria community has joined together in an impressive fashion to achieve remarkable progress, as captured in the *World Malaria Report 2010*. The goal of universal coverage, once thought too ambitious, now sits well within reach. The decrease in malaria-related deaths and other highly encouraging indicators testify to the power and effectiveness of a dedicated partnership.”

Michel Kazatchkine, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

"The World Malaria Report 2010 shows that malaria morbidity and mortality have fallen by greater than 50 percent in 11 African countries and in another 32 malaria-endemic countries outside of Africa. Universal access of key interventions is actually within reach. As the major multilateral funder for malaria, the Global Fund is proud to have contributed to this progress and is committed to helping affected countries achieve the MDG for malaria in the next few years."

Anthony Lake, UNICEF

“A worldwide network of dedicated partners has made enormous strides by providing lifesaving interventions toward ending a disease which is both a root cause and a consequence of poverty. The tremendous scale and dimension of the work undertaken in recent years has brought us to the cusp of an historic humanitarian achievement.”

Andrew Mitchell, Secretary of State for International Development, United Kingdom

“This report shows the international fight against malaria is paying dividends. But with 781,000 people dying from malaria last year – 85% of them children under the age of five - there is clearly still much to do. In September the UK government committed to help halve the number of deaths caused by malaria in at least 10 endemic countries. We will achieve this by supporting better diagnosis, as well as prevention and treatment, and through a relentless focus on accountability and results.”

Johannah-Joy Phumaphi, Executive Secretary African Leaders Malaria Alliance

“The World Malaria Report demonstrates that we are winning the war against malaria and, most importantly, saving the lives of African women, children and men. This news is encouraging for the global network of malaria partners and especially for Africa’s presidents and prime ministers whose engagement on this key development issue has helped to mobilize resources and overcome distribution and delivery obstacles. I have no doubt that we can sustain and build upon these efforts as we move towards the target of zero malaria related deaths by 2015.”

Tim Ziemer, President’s Malaria Initiative

"In tangible, measurable terms, the World Malaria Report 2010 shows us how our shared commitment to defeating this disease has yielded such a positive impact in a short period of time. Looking to the future, we must sustain and protect the progress that has been made to decrease malaria cases and deaths. Together, our work in the coming years will lead to even more promising results.”