

25 April 2008

Malaria - a disease without borders

WORLD MALARIA DAY

KEY MESSAGES

1 Malaria is deadly but beatable.

The Roll Back Malaria Partnership gains ground against the disease.

- The Partnership¹ has placed malaria high on the international health and development agenda. Donor funding for the disease over the past 10 years has increased from less than \$ US 100 million to about \$ US 1 billion this year. However, it is estimated that \$ US 3.2 billion is needed to achieve global malaria control.

- The Partnership has rallied political commitment, expertise and resources behind malaria control initiatives across the globe and has helped reverse upward morbidity and mortality trends in countries across Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Promising results were obtained in Ethiopia, Rwanda, Zambia, Kenya, India, Vietnam, Brazil and other countries.

2 Investing in malaria control makes both humanitarian and economic sense.

More investment in malaria control will provide a much wider access to malaria prevention and treatment and will considerably increase returns on each dollar spent. Studies show that full coverage of 30 malaria-endemic African states with proven malaria-control tools² could save twice as many lives for every million dollars spent.

A DEADLY AND COSTLY DISEASE

- Malaria affects between 350-500 million people per year worldwide and kills 3,000 children per day.
- The disease is responsible for 1.1 million deaths per year or 2% of all deaths worldwide.
- Complications from malaria, such as severe anemia, account for at least a million more deaths.
- Malaria consumes as much as 40% of public health expenditures in malaria-endemic countries.

3 Investing in malaria is a cost-efficient way of achieving global health and development goals.

Slashing malaria cases worldwide will contribute to reaching the Millennium Development Goals of eradicating poverty, reducing child mortality, combating major disease and achieving universal primary education.

4 Collaboration is key to success.

The fight against malaria requires continuous coordination to remain efficient and effective. Recent gains against the disease can only be sustained and multiplied through a close collaboration among public and private actors on community, national, regional and international levels.

¹ Partners of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership include malaria-endemic countries, donors, the private sector, non-governmental and community-based organizations, foundations, and research institutions.

² Proven malaria control tools include long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets, life-saving anti-malarial medicines, and targeted insecticide spraying.