

The fight against malaria

Malaria kills hundreds of thousands of people every year. Nearly 430'000 people died last year according to a report from the World Health Organization (WHO) (Source: <http://www.who.int/malaria/media/world-malaria-report-2016/en/>) Most of the victims are five years or younger. However, even with those dismal facts, not everything is as bleak as it appears on the surface. This report is going to answer the following three tough question: what is malaria; who is at risk; what is being done about it.

What is malaria?

Malaria is a disease of the blood which is caused by the plasmodium parasite. This parasite is transmitted from person to person by a particular type of mosquito, more precisely the female Anopheles mosquitoes, which bites between dusk and dawn. People infected with malaria often experience fever, chills and flu-like illness at first. Left untreated, the disease can lead to severe complications and, in some cases, death. (Source: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/150670.php>)

Key facts

- About *3.2 billion people* – almost half of the world's population – are at risk.
- *214 million* malaria cases reported worldwide in 2015.
- Malaria is a *life-threatening disease* caused by parasites which are transmitted to people through the bites of mosquitoes.
- *Young children and pregnant women* are particularly vulnerable.
- Malaria is *preventable and curable*.

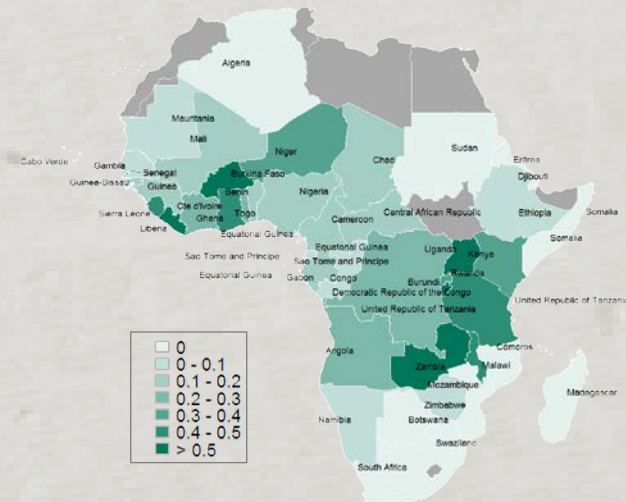


(Source: <http://malaikaforlife.org/img/mosquito.jpg>)

Who is at risk?

In 2015, 94 countries had ongoing malaria transmission, almost half of which lie in Africa. The estimated malaria

Malaria Map of Africa
(Estimated malaria count in percent
of the population, 2015)



(Source: Own calculations and WHO data)

count in Africa as a percentage of the population is the highest for all the continents. The map of Africa on the left shows the 2015 estimated percentage of people suffering from malaria in the different countries on the continent. (Clicking on the map increases its size) The more people infected, the darker the map.)

The highest rate is reached in Burundi where 70% of the population are suspected to have malaria. Below that follow the countries of Liberia, Burkina Faso, Uganda and Zambia. Overall, it can be seen that Sub-Saharan Africa carries a disproportionately high share of the malaria burden. The question is what is being done about it. To get to the answer switch to the next page.

What is being done?

Even though there are a lot of people getting infected by malaria, fewer and fewer people die from it. According to the WHO, the global malaria mortality rate saw a decrease of around 60% between 2000 and 2015. One of the reasons for this achievement is a massive and coordinated effort around the globe to fight malaria. The graph below shows the total funding against malaria (in millions USD) provided by donor governments, multilateral organizations, and domestic sources between 2005 and 2013. (Clicking on the map increases its size.)

It can be seen that especially the donation from the Global fund and the United States have increased significantly over the years. Global financing for malaria control increased from an estimated US\$ 870.7 million in 2005 to US\$ 2.578 billion in 2013. (Source: Own calculations based on WHO data)

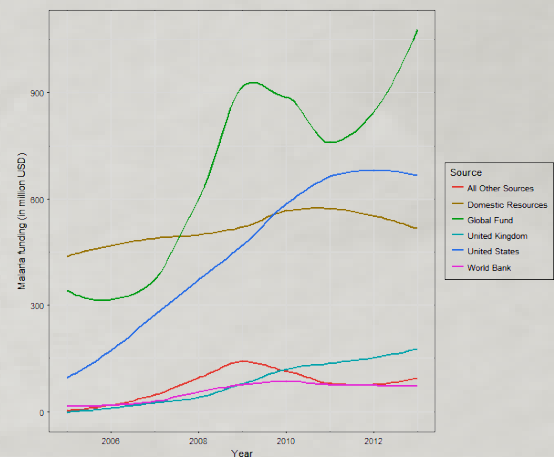
Moving forward

To address the remaining challenges in the global fight against malaria, the WHO has developed a strategy with the goals to reduce the malaria case incidence and mortality rate until 2030

by at least 90%. In order to achieve that target, annual funding for malaria will need to triple over the next 15-years, from US\$ 2.7 billion (current level of spending) to US\$ 8.7 billion by 2030. (Source: <http://www.who.int/malaria/media/malaria-mdg-target/en/>)

Global Funding Statistics

(Spend amount in million USD
Against Malaria, 2005-2013)



(Source: Own calculations and WHO data)