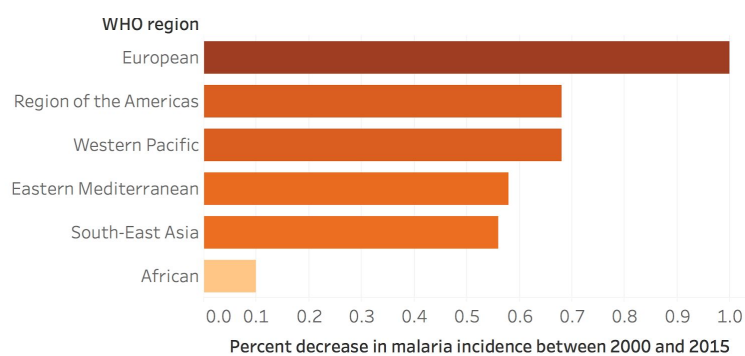


# Swatting mosquitos

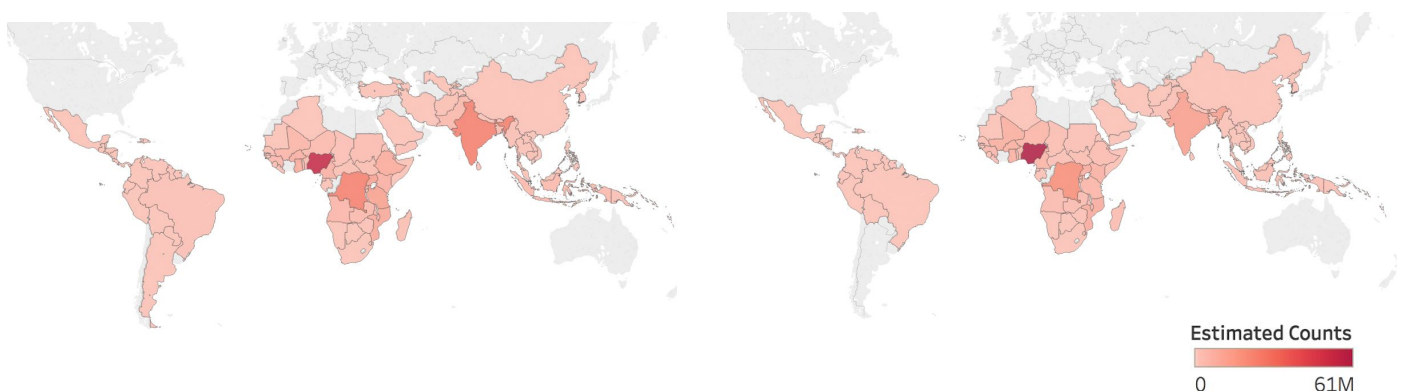
## *The World Health Organisation's fight to eradicate Malaria*

Malaria, the life threatening disease transmitted by bites of the bloodsucking mosquito, has been one of the greatest public health challenges of the 21st Century, with almost half of the world's population at risk of the disease at any time. Insufficient awareness and medical support leads to large numbers of deaths, however despite its lethal potential, Malaria is both preventable and curable when diagnosed in its early phases. Leading the fight against this deadly killer is the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Malaria Program. With a series of targeted efforts in high incidence regions, the WHO has been working steadily over the past few decades to dramatically reduce the malaria burden worldwide, and with remarkable success.



Percentage decrease in malaria incidence between 2000 and 2015 by WHO region

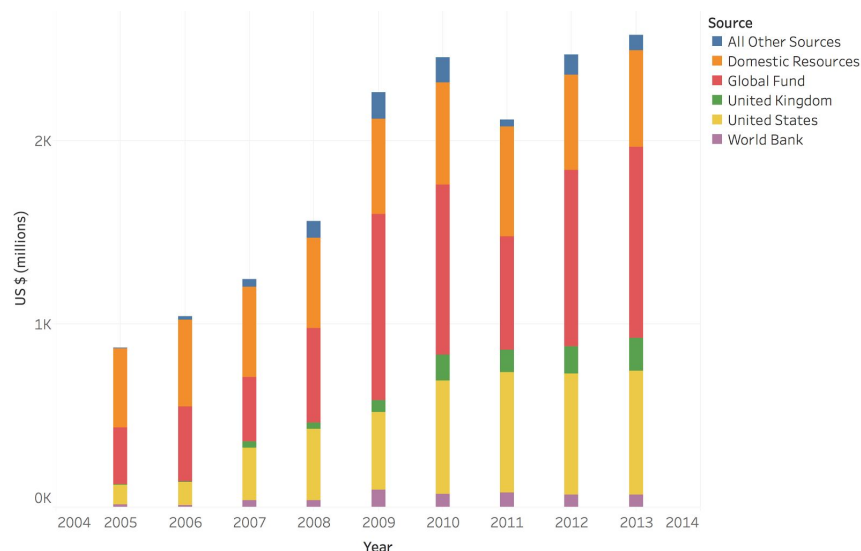
The sustained effort of the Global Malaria Program over the past 15 years has seen the overall malaria burden decrease considerably in a number of key regions. In particular Malaria has been virtually eradicated in Europe, and parts of South America and the Western Pacific have seen decreases of nearly 70% in the malaria incidence between 2000 and 2015. Just comparing highlighted maps of countries where Malaria has been reported, Chile and parts of Europe completely disappear from 2000 to 2015.



Malaria incidence by country in (a) left: 2000, (b) right: 2015

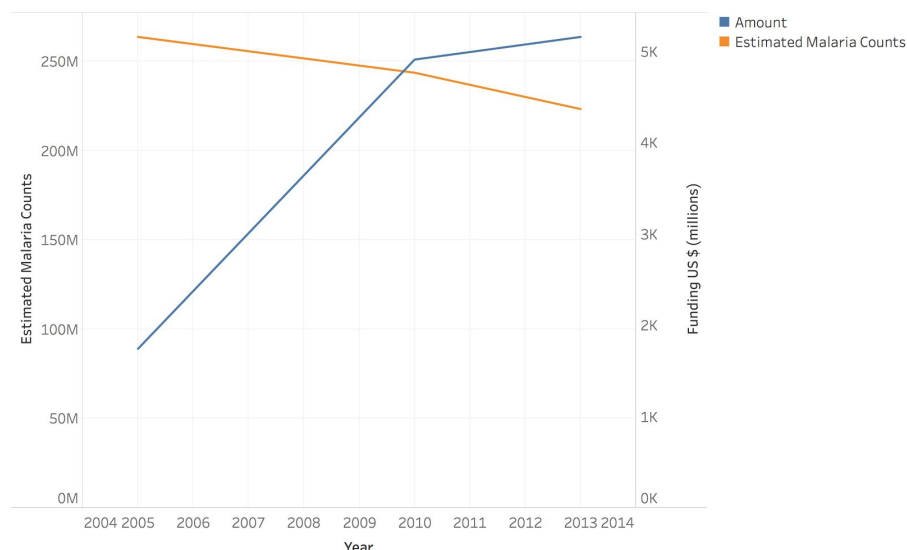
Sub Saharan Africa, one of the regions which immediately comes to mind in relation to Malaria, continues to be an area of high malaria occurrence, with Angola and The Democratic Republic of Congo, still reporting large numbers of suspected malaria cases even in 2015. India however, another key Malaria prone region, has seen a much more positive impact, with significant reduction in cases of malaria over the past decade.

The remarkable progress in reducing malaria incidence has only been possible due to a collective fundraising drive, with generous financial commitments from a number of countries and public bodies. In particular the United States and other Global funds have been crucial funding partners for several years.



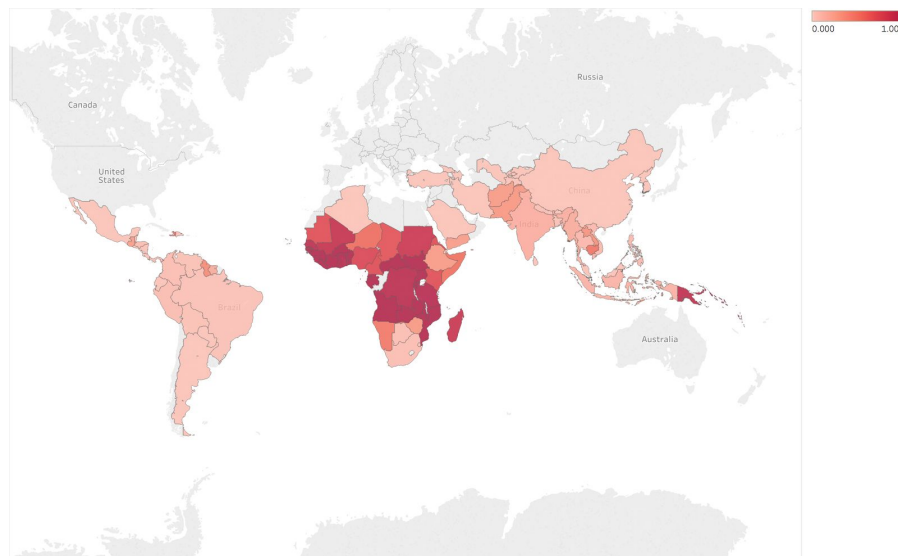
Global funding for Malaria Prevention with breakdown by source

The graph below clearly shows the positive effect of increased levels of funding on reducing global malaria cases - malaria case incidence rates are estimated to have decreased by 37% globally between 2000 and 2015. Sustained funding for Malaria prevention programs remains a key requirement for success going forward.



Trends in global funding for Malaria programs alongside global malaria counts

So what does the positive effect of the WHO's Malaria eradication program mean for you reader? Many more parts of the world are now safer for you to travel and avoid risk of contracting Malaria. If you're planning your next holiday, where should you travel to avoid high risk areas? The world map below shows that large parts of central Africa are still at high risk of Malaria, in particular Nigeria and The Democratic Republic of Congo, and parts of the Philippines also pose a high Malaria risk. Southern American, South Asia and Eastern Europe offer a relatively safer travel destination.



Areas of the world at high risk of Malaria in 2015  
(1 indicating 100% of the population is at risk)

Overall, the Global Malaria Program's efforts over the past 15 years have achieved remarkable success in reducing the incidence of malaria worldwide. With continued perseverance in raising funding, increasing awareness and improving education and medical support in high risk countries, the WHO is well on its way to achieving its next set of goals for 2030: to further reduce malaria incidence by at least 90% and eliminate malaria from at least 35 countries where it is present in 2015. We'll be back in 2030 to see how the WHO's been doing.