

## **The Case For Combating Malaria**

Concentrated in the poorest regions of the world, malaria is a leading cause of death and ill-health in the developing world. It needs our attention, *NOW*.

# Malaria situation today

Malaria is a life-threatening disease caused by parasites that are transmitted to people through the bites of infected female mosquitoes. About 3.2 billion people – almost half of the world's population – are at risk of malaria. Young children, pregnant women and non-immune travelers from malaria-free areas are particularly vulnerable to the disease when they become infected.

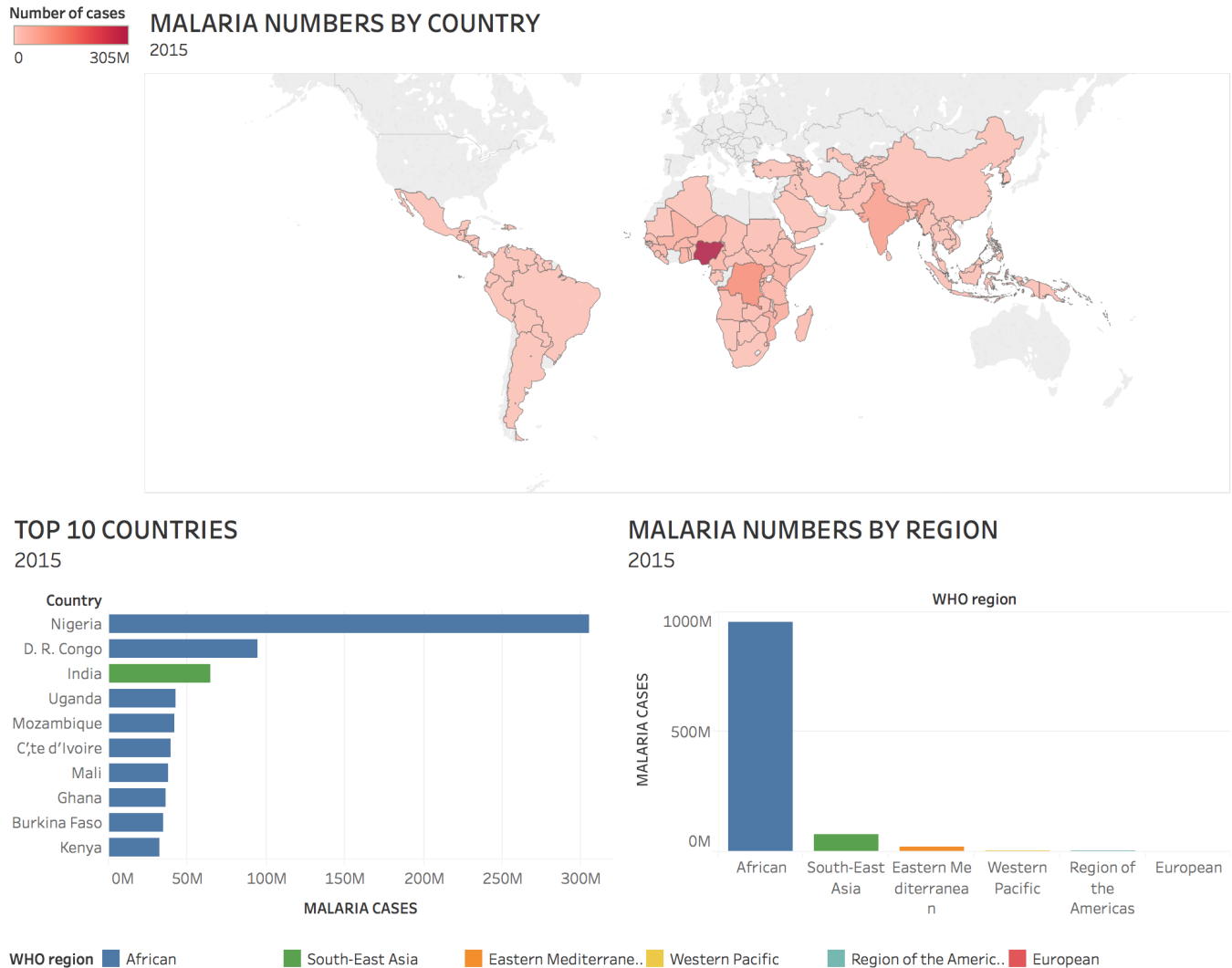
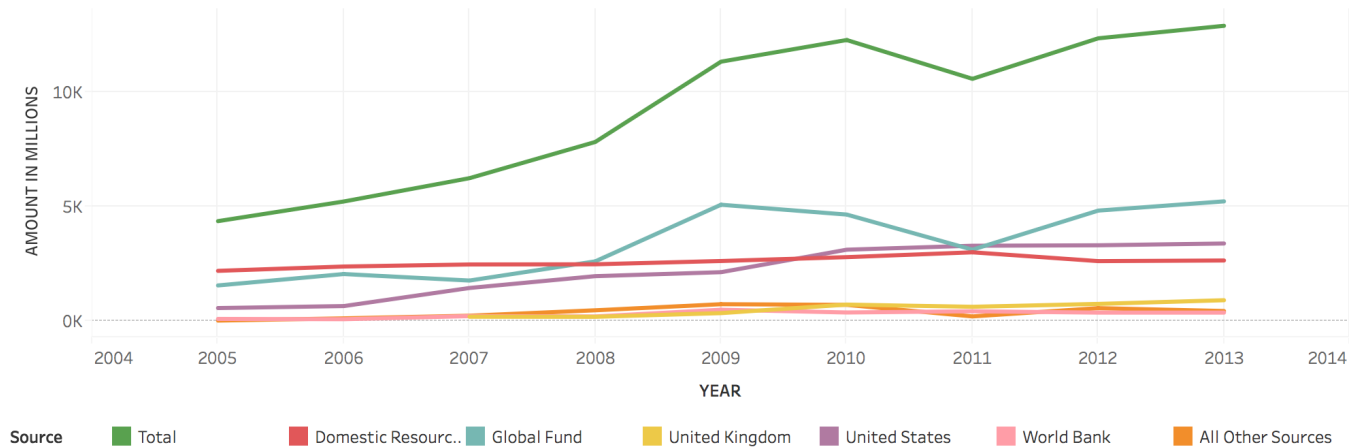


Figure 1. Number of malaria cases across the world in Year 2015. African countries have the highest occurrence by number, with Nigeria topping the list. India is the only Asian country among the top ten malaria plagued countries.

In the year 2015, there are a total of 214 million malaria cases reported worldwide. A look at the regional distribution of malaria cases shows that tropical regions are most affected. Among all, Africa has the most number of malaria cases compared to the rest of the world, contributing to about 90% of total global occurrence. Within Africa, Nigeria has the most number of malaria cases, more than three times that of the Democratic Republic of Congo, which comes in second on the list. Although the total number of malaria cases in Africa decreased from 2000 to 2015 due to increasing global efforts, Nigeria saw an increase in the number of cases from 2010 to 2015, and it remains to be the African country most plagued by the disease. India also has the most number of malaria cases in Asia, which puts it at the third highest on the global malaria cases rank.

## GLOBAL FUNDING INCREASED 2005 - 2013



## MALARIA CASES DECREASED 2000 - 2015

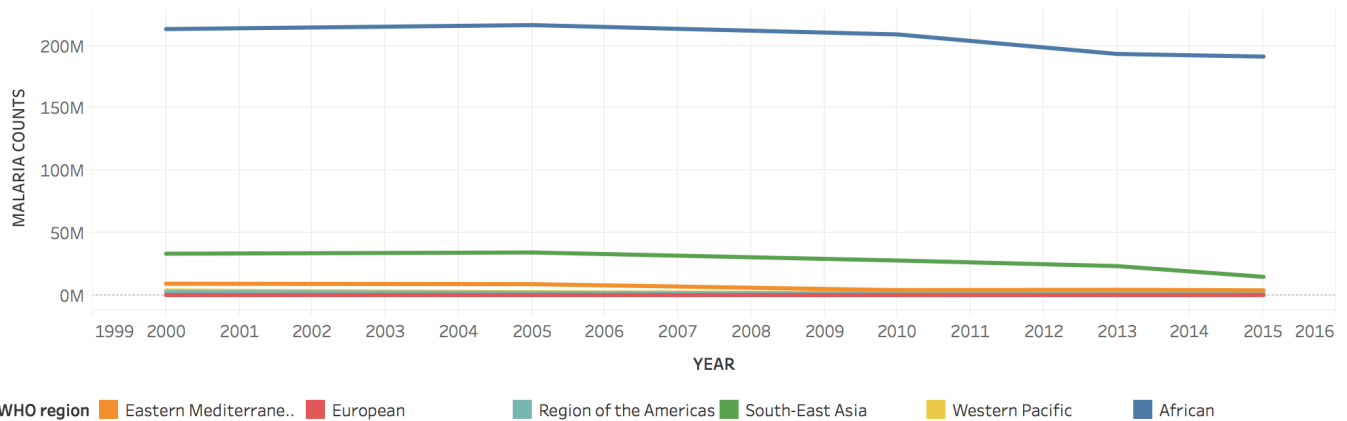


Figure 2. Increased funding in fighting malaria from Year 2005 to Year 2013. Decrease in the number of malaria cases with increased funding effort is observed.

## Increased funding reduces malaria

Malaria is preventable and curable. Increased efforts are dramatically reducing the malaria burden in many places. Global funding efforts increased from 4,352 million in year 2005 to 12,894 million in year 2013. This includes domestic resources, global funds, funding from the world bank, United States, United Kingdom, as well as numerous other sources. Domestic funds increases steadily from year 2005 to year 2013, constituting a significant portion of the total monetary efforts towards fighting malaria. Global funds increases from the year 2005 to 2009, but saw a dipping after 2009 possibly due to the global financial crisis affecting major countries around the world. However, since 2011, global funding efforts has started to increase again and now contributes the most significant part among all funding efforts.

The increase in funding saw a significant decrease in the number of malaria cases. The number of malaria cases in Sri Lanka, in particular, has reduced from 230 million in year 2000 to only 1,800 cases in 2005, removing itself from the world malaria map. Sri Lanka's success was a result of concerted investment and efforts from both domestic and global organizations. Globally, the number of malaria cases has reduced drastically from 263 million in 2005 to 211 million in 2015, by 20%. The global decrease in malaria incidence, which is the number of emerging cases per year, has decreased by 37% between 2000 and 2015. There is also a 60% decrease in global malaria mortality rate between the same time period. Increased funding saw a tangible reduction in the number of malaria cases across the world.

# Shrinking the malaria map

Today we are still faced with hundreds of millions of malaria cases around the world. There is still a long way to go in the fight against malaria, we are by no means near eradicating malaria completely, especially in the developing world. Nevertheless, it is encouraging and rewarding to see that tremendous amount of effort and funding we have put in towards fighting malaria has produced tangible results in reducing both the incidence and mortality rates. With increased investments and sustained effort in this cause, we can no doubt accelerate the shrinking of the malaria map and end the disease for good.