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Malaria

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Malaria is a life-threatening disease caused by parasites that are transmitted to people through the bites of infected female *Anopheles* mosquitoes. It is preventable and curable. There are 5 parasite species that cause malaria in humans, and 2 of these species – *Plasmodium falciparum* and *Plasmodium vivax* – pose the greatest threat.

In 2023, nearly half of the world's population was at risk of malaria. While sub-Saharan Africa carries a disproportionately high share of the global malaria burden, the WHO Regions of South-East Asia and Eastern Mediterranean, Western Pacific, and the Americas also report significant numbers of cases .

There were an estimated 263 million cases of malaria in 2023, and the estimated number of malaria deaths stood at 597 000. In 2023, the African Region was home to 94% and 95% of malaria cases and deaths, respectively.

Children under 5 years of age are most at risk of severe complications from malaria; in 2023, they accounted for nearly 76% of all malaria deaths in the WHO African Region.

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WHO issues first-ever guidance to support countries in staying malaria-free

25 April

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Message from Dr Daniel Ngamije, Director of the WHO Global Malaria Programme, for the 2025 CS4ME Annual Global Malaria Civil Society Forum

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Message from Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, for World Malaria Day 2025

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