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World Malaria Report 2011

FACT SHEET

Key facts

- The *World Malaria Report 2011* summarizes data received from 106 malaria-endemic countries for 2010. Ninety-nine of these countries had ongoing malaria transmission.
- There were 216 million cases of malaria in 2010; 81% of these were in the WHO African Region.¹ An estimated 3.3 billion people were at risk of malaria in 2010.
- An estimated 655 000 persons died of malaria in 2010. 86% of the victims were children under 5 years of age, and 91% of malaria deaths occurred in the WHO African Region.
- Six countries - Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Cote d'Ivoire and Mali - account for 60%, or 390,000, of malaria deaths.
- Malaria mortality rates have fallen by more than 25% since 2000, with the largest percentage reductions seen in the European (99%), American (55%) and Western Pacific (42%) and African Regions (33%).
- Out of 99 countries with ongoing malaria transmission, 43 recorded decreases of more than 50% in the number of malaria cases between 2000 and 2010. Another 8 countries recorded decreases of more than 25%.
- In October 2011, Armenia was certified as free of malaria by WHO, becoming the fourth country in five years to be certified. The other three were the United Arab Emirates in 2007, Morocco in 2010, and Turkmenistan in 2010.
- The number of long-lasting insecticidal nets delivered to malaria-endemic countries in sub-Saharan Africa increased from 88.5 million in 2009 to 145 million in 2010. An estimated 50% of households in sub-Saharan Africa now have at least one bed net, and 96% of persons with access use it.
- The number of rapid diagnostic tests delivered by manufacturers climbed from 45 million in 2008 to 88 million in 2010, and the testing rate in the public sector in the WHO African Region rose from 20% in 2005 to 45% in 2010.

¹ In 2010, there were a total of 46 malaria-endemic countries in sub-Saharan Africa. 43 of these belong to the WHO African Region, and three (Sudan, Somalia and Djibouti) were in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region. Some data in the report is presented for the WHO African Region, and some for sub-Saharan Africa. It is always indicated accordingly.

- In 2010, 181 million courses of artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs) were procured worldwide in the public sector, up from 158 million in 2009, and just 11 million in 2005. ACTs are recommended as the first-line treatment for malaria caused by *Plasmodium falciparum*, the most deadly of parasites that infect humans.
- Malaria interventions are highly cost effective and inexpensive. A rapid diagnostic test costs US\$ 0.50. A course of artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT) costs between US\$ 0.90 - 1.40 for an adult, and US\$ 0.30 - 0.40 for a young child. A long-lasting insecticidal net that lasts three years cost US\$ 1.39 per person per year of protection.
- WHO has recommended that all countries ban the marketing of oral artemisinin-based monotherapies, which have been one of the major factors fostering the emergence and spread of drug resistance. Despite a World Health Assembly resolution addressing this issue, 25 countries still allow the marketing of monotherapies and 28 pharmaceutical companies continue to market these products (down from 39 in 2010).
- Drug resistance is a major concern. *Plasmodium falciparum* resistance to artemisinins, which was confirmed on the Cambodia-Thailand border in 2009, is now suspected in parts of Myanmar and Viet Nam. However, ACTs remain highly effective in almost all settings, so long as the partner drug in the combination is locally effective.
- The *World Malaria Report 2011* also presents data on insecticide resistance. 45 countries around the world have identified resistance to at least one of the four classes of insecticides used for malaria vector control; 27 of these are in sub-Saharan Africa.

Estimated malaria cases and deaths by WHO Region, 2010

	Estimated cases	Estimated deaths
African Region	174 million	596 000
Americas Region	1 million	1 000
Eastern Mediterranean Region	10 million	15 000
European Region	200	0
South-East Asia Region	28 million	38 000
Western Pacific Region	2 million	5 000

KEY INDICATORS AND STATISTICS

Indicator	Data for 2009 (unless otherwise noted)	Data for 2010 (unless otherwise noted)
Long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) – sub-Saharan Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of LLINs delivered by manufacturers - Number of countries that have adopted policy of providing LLINs to all persons at risk 	88.5 million 23	145 million 27
Malaria diagnostics (worldwide) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of countries that adopted policy of diagnostic testing for all age groups - Number of rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) supplied by manufacturers - Percentage of suspected malaria cases tested <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Globally</i> <i>In WHO African Region</i> 	78 45 million (2008) 35% 73%	82 88 million 42% 76%
Use of artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs) - worldwide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of ACT courses procured by public sector Number of countries having adopted ACT as first-line treatment (out of 80 countries with <i>falciparum</i> malaria, for which ACT is recommended as first-line treatment) Number of countries still allowing the marketing of artemisinin monotherapies Number of pharmaceutical companies still marketing the product 	158 million 77 (out of 80) 25 (November 2010) 39 (November 2010)	181 million 80 (out of 80) 25 (November 2011) 28 (November 2011)