



## UNITAID and Malaria

UNITAID is committed to bringing to market innovative solutions to prevent, treat and diagnose malaria more quickly, more cheaply and more effectively.

Some of our interventions include:

### Prevention

The most effective way to prevent malaria is to use vector control tools that protect people from being bitten by parasite-infected mosquitos.

- One tool is Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) where treating the inside walls of dwellings with insecticides kills mosquitoes before they bite. With frequent exposure, however, mosquitoes can become resistant to the insecticides used for IRS. UNITAID has invested \$65 million to encourage governments to **combat insecticide resistance** by making new insecticides cheaper.
- UNITAID is also funding an intervention that aims to provide up to 30 million **seasonal malaria chemoprevention** (SMC) treatments annually to 10 million children under-five years of age across the Sahel region of Africa.

### Testing

Early diagnosis with quality tools followed by appropriate treatment is crucial in stemming deaths from malaria and reducing the risk of drug resistance.

- UNITAID's investments in malaria diagnostics focus on innovative approaches to **improve the availability, affordability and access to quality point-of-care tests**, including a special focus on the private sector.
- UNITAID has supported an intervention to **create a private sector market for quality-assured rapid diagnostic tests** in five malaria endemic countries through a \$34 million investment. UNITAID has also invested \$9.2 million to support national malaria control programmes by evaluating the quality of rapid diagnostic tests and developing new technology to simplify and standardize quality testing and make it more sustainable.

## Treatment

With access to high quality, effective medicines, malaria is curable.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs) to treat *P. falciparum* malaria.

- UNITAID is supporting two projects to ensure that **timely and reliable market information** is available on ACTs: 1) \$1.6 million from UNITAID is financing quarterly forecasts to monitor and report on ACT demand including the artemisinin market (the active pharmaceutical ingredient of ACTs); 2) \$2.8 million from UNITAID is contributing to research to understand ACT availability, price and market share at public and private facilities in a number of endemic countries.
- \$34 million from UNITAID is **accelerating the global adoption of injectable artesunate** (a derivative of artemisinin) to treat severe malaria. To ensure that children are given a chance to reach hospital for treatment of severe malaria, the market entry of rectal artesunate is also being supported. A community health worker or a mother can administer these suppositories; in effect, 'buying time' while the child is transported to hospital.

## What next?

UNITAID's commitment to the global malaria community has contributed to a 37 percent global decrease in incidence and a 60 percent decrease in global malaria mortality rates between 2000 and 2015. Looking forward, the organisation will **continue to support access to affordable and quality malaria products** for vulnerable populations.



## Some of our partners

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), The Global Fund, Innovative Vector Control Consortium (IVCC), Malaria Consortium, PATH, Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), Population Services International (PSI), President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), UNICEF, WHO's Global Malaria Programme.

Malaria is an infectious disease caused by parasites of the genus *Plasmodium*. Female *Anopheles* mosquitoes carry the parasites, which pass into the human bloodstream when the insects bite. According to WHO, in 2015 there were 214 million cases and 438,000 deaths from malaria worldwide.