



Malaria fact sheet

Malaria kills nearly one million people each year; eighty-five percent are children under 5.

Source: [WHO World Malaria Report, 2008](#)

More than 2,000 children under 5 — or one child every 40 seconds — die from malaria each day.

Source: [UNICEF State of the World's Children, 2008](#)

Malaria is the fourth leading cause of child deaths worldwide and second leading cause of child deaths in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Source: [UNICEF State of the World's Children, 2008](#)

Malaria infects an estimated 250 million people each year.

Source: [WHO World Malaria Report, 2008](#)

Approximately 50 million women become pregnant each year in malaria-endemic areas and the disease contributes to around one quarter of severe maternal anemia cases.

Source: [UNICEF State of the World's Children, 2008](#)

The most common malaria species in Africa, *Plasmodium falciparum*, is estimated to cause as many as 10,000 maternal deaths each year and eight percent to 14 percent of all low birth weight babies.

Source: [WHO Malaria in Pregnancy](#)

Malaria is a prime cause of low birth weight in newborns, anemia, and infant deaths.

Source: [UNICEF State of the World's Children, 2008](#)

The protective effect of insecticide-treated bed nets has the potential to prevent as many as one million deaths from all causes for children under 5 in sub-Saharan Africa.

Source: [CDC Malaria Vector Control](#)

[Roll Back Malaria: The Cochrane Collaboration](#)
[AJTMH 68\(Suppl 4\), 2003 pp. 23-29](#)

Malaria has been estimated to cost Africa more than \$ 12 billion every year in lost GDP, even though it could be controlled for a fraction of that sum.

Source: [UN RBM Malaria in Africa](#)

Approximately 50 percent of the world's population is at risk of contracting malaria. Most of those at risk live in the world's poorest countries.

Source: [WHO World Malaria Report, 2008](#)

In some countries with a very heavy malaria burden, malaria may account for as much as 40 percent of public health expenditures, 30-50 percent of inpatient admissions and up to 60 percent of outpatient visits.

Source: [WHO Malaria](#)

An estimated 57 percent of malaria deaths are attributable to undernutrition.

Source: [WFP World Hunger Series, 2007](#)