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amp | The Alliance for
Malaria Prevention
Expanding the ownership and use of mosquito nets

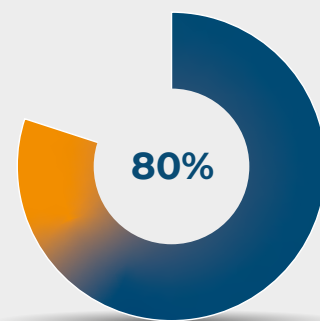
THE CONTINUING BURDEN OF MALARIA

Approximately 3.4 billion people (nearly half the world's population) are at risk of malaria. In 2020, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), there were an estimated 241 million cases of malaria globally and approximately 627,000 deaths. Africa bears approximately 95 per cent of these cases and 96 per cent of the deaths. **Close to 80 per cent of malaria deaths in 2020 were among children under five years of age.** While these increases were partly due to COVID-19 which caused major disruptions in malaria interventions, gains against malaria had plateaued since 2017, well before the onset of the pandemic.

In the 2017 World Malaria Report, WHO had warned that “the global response (to malaria) had reached a ‘crossroads’ and that progress towards critical targets of WHO’s **global strategy for**

reductions in disease and death was off track”. Ensuring that households have continued access to malaria prevention is a critical factor to get the malaria community back “on track”, to recuperate gains previously achieved, and to meet WHO malaria objectives¹.

In 2021, according to WHO, progress against malaria remained uneven: while several countries were moving towards malaria elimination, **many high burden countries were regressing in their fight against malaria with cases and deaths increasing**. To win the fight against malaria, sufficient political will and sustained investment are required to support innovation and development of effective tools and strategies to ensure universal access to malaria prevention, diagnosis and treatment.



Close to **80 per cent** of malaria deaths in 2020 were among **children under five years of age**

1. WHO. Global technical strategy for malaria 2016–2030. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240031357>.
By 2025 - Goal 1: Reduce malaria mortality rates by at least 75 per cent, Goal 2: Reduce malaria cases by at least 75 per cent, Goal 3: Eliminate malaria from at least 20 countries, Goal 4: Prevent re-establishment of malaria in malaria-free countries.



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FIGHTING MALARIA WITH INSECTICIDE- TREATED NETS

Sleeping under an insecticide-treated net (ITN) provides proven protection from malaria-carrying mosquitoes and has been shown to reduce malaria incidence by 50 per cent, and all-cause child mortality by 20 per cent². Notably, the progress towards controlling and eliminating malaria since 2000 has been achieved largely through the massive scale-up and use of WHO-pre-qualified tools that prevent, detect and treat the disease. Preventive measures include the distribution of **2.3 billion ITNs** in countries with malaria between 2004 and 2021, led by national malaria programmes of Ministries of Health and supported by national and international partners.

Ensuring **sustained access to ITNs** is critical for continuing to reduce malaria cases. **Mass ITN distribution campaigns**, typically conducted every three years, have proven to be the best method for rapidly scaling up ITN access in households and communities. At the same time, national malaria programmes and their partners are working towards establishing several **additional ITN distribution channels** to maintain coverage between campaigns. For example, routine distribution through health facilities remains a priority in malaria-endemic countries for providing access to ITNs for the most biologically vulnerable populations (pregnant women and children under five years of age).

With increasing concerns about insecticide resistance and its potential negative effect on ITN effectiveness, recently **new ITN types have been introduced**³, some of which show significant potential to improve malaria prevention when people are using them correctly on a nightly basis. With expanded access to new ITN types, national malaria programmes can effectively **target resources based on resistance data**. However, due to funding and production constraints, the number of new ITN types available is currently insufficient to tackle the insecticide resistance problem that many countries are facing.

Lack of sufficient resources and inadequate access by vulnerable populations to effective vector control tools are threats to achievement of the global malaria targets. In addition, many countries are facing operational challenges linked to urbanization, insecurity and political and economic instability, as well as natural disasters. These challenges, which often lead to population movement and displacement, require **adapted operational strategies to ensure access to ITNs among internally displaced people, refugees and hard-to-reach populations**.

Despite the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, 31 countries had planned mass ITN distribution campaigns in 2020 and of these 18 countries (58 per cent) completed their campaigns in 2020, while 13 countries (42 per cent) started their campaigns but had not completed by the end of the year. Globally, about three quarters (72 per cent) of all ITNs planned for campaign distribution had been distributed by the end of 2020. With great effort by national malaria programmes and their partners, despite the continuing pandemic, **more than 300 million ITNs were distributed** in 2020 and 2021.



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2. Pryce J, Richardson M, Lengeler C. [Insecticide-treated nets for preventing malaria](https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD000363.pub3/full). Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2018, Issue 11. Art. No.: CD000363. <https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD000363.pub3/full>

3. <https://www.ivcc.com/market-access/new-nets-project/>

THE CRITICAL ROLE OF THE ALLIANCE FOR MALARIA PREVENTION

The Alliance for Malaria Prevention (AMP) is a unique global partnership committed to expanding the ownership and use of ITNs alongside other malaria prevention and treatment interventions. As part of the RBM Partnership to End Malaria (RBM), AMP comprises over 40 partners, including government, private sector, faith-based and humanitarian organizations. AMP is a member of RBM's Country Regional Support Partner Committee (CRSPC) and collaborates closely with other RBM work streams, specifically with the Vector Control Working Group (VCWG) on technical issues and the Social and Behaviour Change (SBC) Working Group: the latter focuses on improving SBC strategies and tools to increase access to ITNs and improve their correct utilization, care and maintenance.

AMP partners:

- **Identify needs and advocate for country-specific support** to plan and implement ITN distribution (both mass and continuous), and to mobilize resources should gaps in ITNs or operational costs occur
- **Provide a network of global experts** to lend technical assistance to national malaria programmes on quality planning, implementation and evaluation of ITN distribution
- **Develop and publish** broad operational guidance on every aspect of mass and continuous distribution
- **Build capacity and train** national partners and actors

AMP facilitates coordination and supports national and international partners in their efforts to **deliver ITNs through mass campaigns and continuous distribution channels**. Mass distribution campaigns allow the rapid delivery of enormous quantities of ITNs to the entire population at risk of malaria on a fixed (typically three year) cycle. At the same time, many national malaria programmes have begun introducing continuous distribution of ITNs through schools and community channels either as pilots or at scale, while others have introduced social marketing or other distribution channels to reach at-risk populations. Most national malaria programmes implement routine ITN distribution to pregnant women during antenatal visits and to children during vaccination sessions to ensure ITN access for the most vulnerable population groups. AMP partners support ITN distribution across all channels.

Operational guidance

AMP has developed a comprehensive **toolkit** focused on universal coverage ITN campaigns. The toolkit is regularly revised by means of additional briefs to ensure that the most up-to-date resources are available to countries implementing mass distribution campaigns. AMP continues to develop operational guidance with national malaria programmes and their partners based on iterative learning through implementation experience. AMP has recently focused on **guidance for cross-cutting issues** such as the **digitalization of campaigns**, planning and implementation of ITN distribution in **complex operating environments** and **multi-product ITN mass campaigns**. The toolkit and guidance documents for mass campaign distribution are available for download at no cost from the AMP website (www.allianceformalariaprevention.com) and resources for continuous distribution planning and implementation are also available (<https://continuousdistribution.org>).



Capacity-building and training

The AMP partnership maintains a strong focus on capacity-building and training of national partners and actors through operational guidance, technical assistance with training workshops, exchange missions between programmes and weekly and annual meetings, both virtual and in person. AMP aims to strengthen and support sharing of skills and experience gained by national malaria programmes and partner organization staff in ITN campaign planning, logistics, SBC and monitoring and evaluation. Since 2020, AMP has organized a variety of virtual training and information sessions with technical assistance providers, national malaria programmes and implementing and funding partners with interpretation to ensure sharing of information between Anglophone, Francophone and Lusophone countries. AMP's training and capacity-building have helped generate a roster of expert consultants for technical assistance who are primarily based in malaria-endemic countries.



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THE CRITICAL ROLE OF THE ALLIANCE FOR MALARIA PREVENTION

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Technical assistance

Advising national programmes on scaling up ITN distribution through innovative strategies is a critical role of AMP, which helps countries achieve their targets for malaria control and elimination. Improving the quality and effectiveness of the ITN distributions helps sustain ITN access especially for hard-to-reach and marginalized communities with a significant malaria burden. In this way, the AMP partnership helps save the lives of millions of children and adults in malaria-endemic countries.

Based on requests from national malaria programmes and implementing partners, AMP provides **globally recognized expert technical assistance** through distance and in-country missions to support planning and execution of ITN mass campaigns and continuous distribution. Since 2004, AMP has supported many countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Americas. The technical assistance is designed to help national malaria programmes plan and tailor strategies

and activities to their own context, which may include conflict and political and social upheaval, multiple types of ITNs, adaptations for COVID-19, introduction of the use of geospatial technology for microplanning or digitalization of campaign components.



In 2020 alone, AMP provided distance technical support to 26 national malaria programmes with planned campaigns at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic onset. Through this support, national malaria programmes and their partners successfully distributed over 162 million ITNs to sustain gains and ensure that malaria did not resurge during the pandemic. In 2021, technical support helped national malaria programmes distribute approximately 170 million ITNs.





ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP

AMP CONTACTS

How we work

The Alliance for Malaria Prevention was established in 2004. The partnership meets weekly on a conference call to discuss progress and challenges in achieving targets in ITN campaign countries or for an in-depth discussion on a specific topic or theme. AMP also organizes an annual partners' meeting.

A Core Group of partners advises AMP leadership on priority strategies and activities. In addition, the following six working groups support the implementation of the AMP annual work plan:

- > Continuous distribution
- > Country support
- > Innovation and evaluation
- > Multi-product
- > Net Mapping Project
- > Toolkit and training

Interested partners are invited to participate in working groups. Please contact the Chair of the group, found on: <https://allianceformalariaprevention.com/working-groups/>

Financial support

The work of the AMP partnership is currently funded by contributions from the following partners:

- > Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- > Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- > Innovative Vector Control Consortium
- > International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- > RBM Partnership to End Malaria
- > United Nations Foundation
- > United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- > US President's Malaria Initiative (PMI)

To join the weekly AMP conference call each Wednesday at 10:00 AM Eastern time (16.00 PM CET) please use the following Zoom meeting line:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2367777867?pwd=a1lhZk9kQmcyMXNaWnRaNlJCUTQ3dz09>

You can find your local number to join the weekly call:

<https://zoom.us/j/2367777867>

To be added to the AMP mailing list visit:

<https://allianceformalariaprevention.com/weekly-conference-call/signup-for-our-mailing-list/>

To contact AMP or join an AMP working group email:

info@allianceformalariaprevention.com

For further information go to the AMP website:

<https://allianceformalariaprevention.com>

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