

Malaria Facts

1. Malaria is a disease of the blood that is caused by a parasite transmitted from person to person by nocturnal *anopheles* mosquitoes. It causes symptoms such as a flu-like fever and if not treated can lead to a coma and death.

2. **Malaria and poverty are integrally connected. Malaria is both a cause and consequence of poverty, affecting the economic growth of individuals and nations. Malaria costs the continent of Africa approximately \$12 billion every year in lost productivity and consumes 40% of African health expenditures.**



(c) M.Hallahan/Sumitomo Chemical-Olyset Net

3. Worldwide, in just one year (2006) 350 to 500 million people were infected with malaria and up to one million died.

4. Malaria is one of the greatest killers of children in the world, particularly those under five, as well as pregnant women.

5. 90% of malaria deaths occur in Africa, where it kills a child every 30 seconds.

6. Malaria is both preventable and treatable, using proven tools like insecticide-treated mosquito nets, spraying the inside walls of houses with safe insecticides, and providing access to proper diagnosis and effective medicines.

7. Recently countries such as Ethiopia and Rwanda have significantly reduced the malaria burden by up to 50%, particularly through increased distribution of insecticide treated mosquito nets, coupled with increased international funding and attention. However, more action is still needed to reduce the incidence of malaria across Africa.

8. Malaria has been eliminated from many quarters of the world, including the United States and most of Europe. However, it continues to ravage sub-Saharan Africa, and parts of Asia, Latin America and the Middle East are also affected. Half of the world's population is at risk of malaria.

9. Faith communities globally have a significant role to play in raising awareness. Keeping the spotlight on malaria will help ensure that the funding commitments are met and help further funding to be found.

10. **Your funds can make a difference. \$10 or £5 provides a family a bed net – including the purchase, distribution and education as well as monitoring and evaluation.** Although \$10 or £5 for a bed net may not sound like much, it is impossible to afford for most people at risk of contracting malaria.

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. GET TOGETHER,
RAISE FUNDS, RAISE AWARENESS.**