

# WORLD MALARIA REPORT



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### INTRODUCTION TO THE 2010 WORLD MALARIA REPORT

The 2010 World Malaria Report documents international success in fighting a disease that takes its heaviest toll on poor and vulnerable populations. As such, it contains valuable lessons on how the international community can achieve even greater advances against malaria and make inroads against other global threats.

Success in the fight against malaria comes largely as a result of a new approach involving a broad range of partners coming together in common cause. Sustained action and vigilance remain critical to winning the battle against a tenacious, ever-changing foe, which kills nearly 800,000 people each year.

Two years ago, I called for universal coverage of malaria-control interventions by the end of 2010, in order to bring an end to malaria deaths by 2015. The response was impressive. Enough insecticide-treated mosquito nets have been delivered to Sub-Saharan Africa to protect nearly 580 million people, and more than 75 million have received protection from indoor residual spraying. An additional 54 million nets are slated for delivery in the coming months, bringing the goal of universal coverage within reach.

There have also been compelling advances in places where the disease is endemic. Eleven African countries, backed by international partners, have cut malaria cases and deaths by half, and hundreds of thousands of lives have been saved across the continent. We are also seeing a correlation in certain instances between heightened malaria control and decreases in child mortality from all causes, showing yet again that malaria control is integral to reaching the Millennium Development Goals.

The World Malaria Report 2010 shows what is possible when we join forces and embrace the mission of saving lives. If we heed the lessons highlighted in this report, we can achieve our goal of ending malaria deaths by the year 2015, accelerate progress toward the MDGs and usher in a better future for all.



# **Foreword**

## Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General World Health Organization

The findings in the *World Malaria Report 2010* further strengthen the business case for investing in malaria control. The accelerated drive to achieve universal coverage with today's tools, called for by the United Nations Secretary-General in 2008, continues to produce results. Nearly 289 million insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs) will have been delivered to sub-Saharan Africa between 2008 and 2010, enough to protect 578 million people. In Africa, 75 million people, or 10% of the population at risk, were also protected in 2009 by indoor residual spraying. These are real achievements.

These prevention efforts are producing a measurable public health impact. The annual number of malaria cases and deaths continues to decline, especially in Africa. The number of countries that have successfully cut their malaria burden in half over the past decade continues to rise. For the first time, not a single case of falciparum malaria was reported in the WHO European Region in 2009. One by one, we are counting down the number of countries endemic for malaria. This year alone, I had the honour to certify both Morocco and Turkmenistan as being free from malaria, and was able to add the names of these countries to the *Official* 

In 2009, more than a third of suspected malaria cases reported in Africa were confirmed with a diagnostic test, a dramatic increase from the less than 5% at the beginning of the decade. A small number of African countries have been able to rapidly scale up malaria diagnostic testing at a national level. Not only has this resulted in saving the unnecessary use of hundreds of thousands of courses of ACTs annually, but has also allowed for the implementation of timely and accurate surveillance for malaria. This is a great leap forward. Only by knowing where our enemy lurks, identifying the places where we still have malaria, can we expect to defeat it.

While there is much to celebrate, the data in this report also underscore the fragility of our progress. Resurgences of malaria were observed in parts of at least three African countries. The exact reasons for these sharp increases are not known, but likely reflect some combination of natural variation and lapses in control measures. These programme failures are a pointed reminder of what could happen if we reduce our vigilance and do not follow through on our collective commitments. In many ways, sustaining the high coverage rates with malaria prevention and control measures may prove even more challenging than having achieved such coverage in the first place.

We cannot let this momentum slip. Significant recent

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