

# Malaria and COVID-19

COVID-19 is a disease that has spread quickly to all corners of the globe, presenting an emerging threat to millions of families at risk of malaria, fragile health systems in malaria-affected countries and decades of progress against malaria.

## Impact of COVID-19 on malaria elimination efforts

Globally, current investments and interventions to end malaria save almost **600,000 lives** and prevent nearly **100 million infections** each year compared to 2000 levels.



To **protect these gains, save lives, and prevent additional strain** on health systems, it is critical to prevent severe disruptions in insecticide treated mosquito net campaigns and in access to antimalarials due to COVID-19, which could otherwise lead to a surge in malaria cases and a doubling of malaria deaths this year.\*

\*According to a new modelling analysis by the WHO, in close collaboration with partners including PATH, the Malaria Atlas Project, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

## Key risk factors that could impact the delivery of life-saving malaria interventions include:

**Shutdown of malaria prevention campaigns**, reducing access to life-saving prevention tools such as insecticide-treated mosquito nets and hindering early diagnosis and treatment, leading to increased severe malaria cases, and more deaths



### Limited access to essential health services

and community health workers prevented from conducting testing at the local level and providing antimalarials that lead to early diagnosis and treatment of malaria



### Lack of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

to protect and enable frontline health workers fighting malaria and other diseases, which is required to protect workers from COVID-19 to go into communities to do effective integrated community case management and be able to treat people safely at health clinics



### Disruption to the supply chain

of antimalarials and proven malaria interventions, such as long-lasting insecticide treated nets (ITNs), rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) and indoor residual spraying (IRS)

**Reluctance or inability** of people with fever to seek life-saving treatment, resulting in a higher number of malaria-related complications and even deaths

**In the face of COVID-19**, acting now before the rainy season could save almost **400,000 lives** - especially children under 5 and pregnant women who are most at risk - and prevent a surge in malaria cases that will overburden challenged health systems.

## The global malaria community response to COVID-19

The global malaria community's coordinated response to COVID-19 must sustain malaria control efforts to prevent, detect and treat malaria cases and avoid unnecessary cases and deaths while preventing the spread of COVID-19.



Sustain or increase investments in the malaria fight, which will benefit the COVID-19 response



Provide Community Health Workers with PPE in malaria-endemic countries so they can continue to conduct campaigns safely, and deliver safe treatment to patients at home or at health centers



Co-ordinate global efforts among partners to ensure malaria medicines and tools are available where they are needed most



Continue the delivery of malaria prevention campaigns to protect as many people as possible with mosquito nets, IRS and SMC ahead of the rainy season, especially in countries with a high burden of malaria



Complement wider efforts to improve access to all life-saving tools and medicines, particularly in countries with fragile health systems



Maintain access to essential health services that lead to early diagnosis and treatment of malaria, which prevents malaria cases from becoming severe and requiring hospitalization



Remain vigilant in countries that have eliminated malaria to prevent reemergence of the disease.



Raise awareness of the increased importance of sleeping under mosquito nets, staying safe and seeking treatment for a fever