

25TH APRIL 2025

WORLD



MALARIA DAY



Sir Brian Bell
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World Malaria Day 25th April 2025 “Malaria Ends with Us: Reinvest, Reimagine, Reignite”.

Every year on April 25th we highlight a crucial day for Papua New Guinea, World Malaria Day. This disease affects men, women, and children across the nation every year and is an essential reminder that more needs to be done to reduce transmission of this disease and as a community, we can all work together to prevent transmission in our communities.

According to World Health Organisation in 2023 there were 597,000 malaria deaths and 263 million new cases. Malaria continues to endanger the lives of the most vulnerable people in our community including infants, young children and women who are pregnant. Early diagnosis and treatment are crucial to reduce transmission and prevent deaths.

Papua New Guinea continues to have high rates of malaria with an estimated 1.5 million cases each year. There are many simple ways to prevent malaria and reduce transmissions in the community such as applying mosquito repellent, draping mosquito netting over beds, putting screens on windows and doors, treating clothing with insect repellent and wearing long pants or sleeves in areas prone to mosquitos.

“Together we can reduce malaria in PNG, cover up when possible and if you suspect malaria get tested and get treated to stop the transmission in the community” commented Sir Brian Bell Foundation CEO Bronwyn Wright.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION:

On World Malaria Day 2025, WHO joins the RBM Partnership to End Malaria and other partners in promoting “Malaria Ends With Us: Reinvest, Reimagine, Reignite”, a grassroots campaign that aims to re-energize efforts at all levels, from global policy to community action, to accelerate progress towards malaria elimination. The global community recommitted to malaria in the late 1990s and, as a result, an estimated 2.2 billion cases and 12.7 million deaths have been prevented over more than two decades. But after years of steady declines, progress has stalled. Today, malaria claims an

estimated 1 life every minute, with most deaths occurring in the WHO African Region.

Further progress and decades of hard-won gains are in jeopardy. Extreme weather events, conflict, humanitarian emergencies, and economic stresses are disrupting malaria control efforts in many endemic countries, leaving tens of millions of people with limited access to the services they need to prevent, detect and treat the disease. Without prompt treatment, malaria can rapidly escalate to severe illness and death.

It's time to recommit to ending malaria. We have the knowledge, life-saving tools and targeted prevention, testing and treatment methods to defeat this disease. We must reinvest in proven interventions, reimagine our strategies to overcome current obstacles, and reignite our collective efforts together with countries and communities to accelerate progress towards ending malaria. We know how to end malaria. The choice is ours: act now or risk losing ground. Ending malaria is not just a health imperative; it is an investment in a more equitable, safer and prosperous future for every nation.

Learn more:
www.who.int/campaigns/world-malaria-day/2025

WHAT IS MALARIA?

Malaria is a life-threatening but preventable and curable disease caused by

parasites that are transmitted to people through the bites of infected female

Anopheles mosquitoes. There are 5 parasite species that cause malaria in humans, and 2 of these species – *Plasmodium falciparum* and *Plasmodium vivax* – pose the greatest threat. There were an estimated 597,000 malaria deaths in 2023 as well as 263 million new cases of malaria. Personal protective measures such as long-sleeved clothing and using a quality insect repellent containing DEET are recommended during dusk and dawn when the important vector species of mosquito bite.

SYMPTOMS OF MALARIA

Malaria is a curable disease when diagnosed and treated promptly. Malaria can be categorized as uncomplicated or severe (complicated). Symptoms usually appear 10-15 days after an infective mosquito bite and can be hard to recognise at first but can include fever, chills, and headache; however, if not promptly treated, more severe complications of Malaria can occur usually from the *P. falciparum* species of mosquito. Severe malaria is a medical emergency and should be treated urgently. If malaria is suspected, it is important to see a medical professional for a health evaluation as soon as possible.

MALARIA AND PREGNANCY

Adults who have survived repeated malaria infections in their life may become partially immune to severe or fatal malaria. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advise that due to changes in a women's immune system during pregnancy and the presence of a new organ (the placenta) with new places for parasites to bind, pregnant women lose some of their immunity to malaria infection. Malaria infection during pregnancy can lead to maternal anaemia, low birth weight and foetal loss. If you are pregnant, discuss your malaria risk and protective measures with your doctor. If Malaria is suspected at any time, it is important to seek a health evaluation immediately.

DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF MALARIA

Malaria is a preventable and treatable disease, early diagnosis and treatment reduces malaria transmission in communities and prevents deaths. World Health Organisation recommends that all cases of suspected malaria be confirmed using parasite- based diagnostic testing (either microscopy or rapid diagnostic test) before treatment is provided. If you suspect you or a loved one have malaria it is important to see your doctor immediately as it may be life-threatening if not treated. If you are prescribed medication to treat malaria it is important to take any medications as advised.

PREVENTION OF MALARIA.

Follow these important measures to stop you and your family being bitten by mosquitoes:

- Insecticide-treated mosquito nets:**
 Sleeping under an insecticide-treated net can reduce contact between mosquitoes and humans by providing both a physical barrier and an insecticidal effect. If high community coverage is achieved, the numbers of mosquitoes, as well as reducing the mosquito's length of life. They are also cost-effective and have been shown to reduce malaria illness, severe disease, and death due in endemic regions.
- Indoor spraying:**
 Indoor residual spraying (IRS) with insecticides 1-2 times per year is a powerful way to rapidly reduce malaria transmission. A high proportion of houses in the area must be sprayed (approx. 80%) in an area for IRS to be effective according to the CDC.
- Antimalarial medications:**
 If your doctor has recommended you take anti-malaria medication, it is important to take only as advised and discuss any possible medication interactions prior to use. It is important to continue to use personal protective measures such as wearing long- sleeved pants and shirts is advised particularly between dusk and dawn when malaria-carrying mosquitoes are most active, as no antimalarial drug is 100% protective.
- Cover up:**
 If spending lots of time outdoors, wear lighter coloured long-sleeved shirts and pants when possible.
- Use an insect repellent containing DEET:**
 Apply insect repellent containing DEET on your skin regularly to repel insects, including mosquitoes. When used correctly, it is safe for older children, adults, and pregnant women. Always use on exposed skin (never on broken or irritated skin), never spray directly on your face (spray into hands and pat on your face), avoid contact with lips and eyes and wash your hands after applying.

Early diagnosis and treatment reduces the transmission of malaria and prevents deaths. If you or your loved one suspect malaria it is important to talk to your doctor.



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