



Curing Malaria Together



Medicines for Malaria Venture

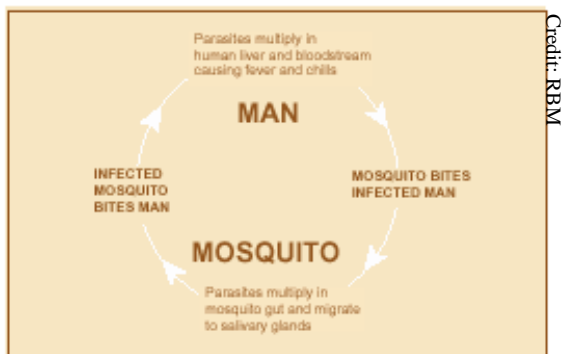
What is Malaria?

Malaria is a life-threatening disease caused by a parasite and transmitted to humans by mosquitoes. One of the world's leading infectious killers, it claims the lives of between one and three million people annually. The majority of its victims are children under the age of five and pregnant women in developing countries.

Malaria is caused by the *plasmodium* parasite. Four different species of *plasmodium* infect humans with *plasmodium falciparum* being responsible for most malaria related deaths, especially in Africa.

Once the *plasmodium* parasite enters the red blood cells, they grow and multiply until the infected blood cells rupture, freeing fever-inducing toxins and more parasites to invade new healthy blood cells.

In many cases, particularly in children and pregnant women, dead and dying blood cells may lead to life-threatening anemia, cerebral malaria and too often death. In cerebral malaria, the infected red cells become rigid and obstruct the blood vessels in the brain, often leading to long-lasting developmental problems. If left untreated, malaria can kill within 48 hours.



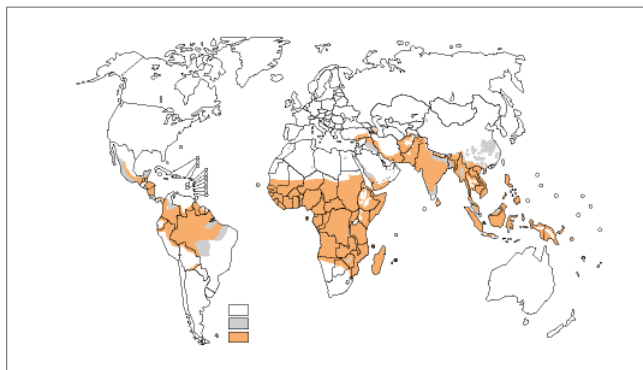
Man and mosquito play complementary roles in the malaria cycle.

Though malaria is entirely preventable and curable, growing resistance in endemic countries to the most widely available, affordable and used drugs such as *chloroquine* are quickly rendering these therapies useless.

Burden of the disease

Malaria is a major public health problem in more than 90 countries, inhabited by more than 2.4 billion people – 40% of the world's population. The disease is estimated to kill a child every 30 seconds and to cause up to 600 million new infections worldwide annually.

Malaria is one of the biggest killer diseases in Africa and a primary cause of poverty - undermining development in some of the poorest countries. Though the majority of the cases and approximately 90% of the malaria deaths are found in Sub-Saharan Africa, the disease is now increasing in Asia and Latin America.



Above: World malaria situation. Malaria is endemic to tropical and subtropical regions.

Credit: RBM

The emergence of drug-resistant parasites and insecticide-resistant mosquitoes has led to a resurgence of the disease in the tropics. Additionally, possibly due to global warming, malaria is also returning to areas from which it had been eradicated such as Central Asia and Eastern Europe.

New, affordable and effective drugs are required particularly in Africa and Asia where drug resistance has become a major problem. Cheap and widely-available drugs that once saved millions of lives are useless in many areas. MMV is responding to this need. Its mission is to discover, develop and deliver antimalarial drugs that are appropriate, affordable and accessible for the poorest populations.

Learn more about MMV, visit: www.mmv.org or contact info@mmv.org

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