



UK government spend on malaria

1. Results:

In 2018/19 the total estimated UK government spend on malaria was £452 million.

2. Context

Malaria is an infectious disease transmitted by mosquitos. Malaria caused an estimated 435,000 deaths in 2017 and children under the age of 5 are especially vulnerable to the disease. Most malaria cases in 2017 were in Africa (92%) followed by South-East Asia (5%).¹

Sustainable Development Goal 3, “Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages”, covers a range of health issues. Of the 13 targets, one (target 3.3) covers malaria specifically: “By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, TB, malaria and NTDs and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases”. Progress on malaria is tracked by the SDG indicator “Malaria incidence per 1,000 population”.

The UK is currently the second largest global funder of the effort against malaria². The UK contributes to the global effort on malaria through bilateral programming and funding to multilateral institutions including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the World Health Organisation (WHO). The UK also funds research on the development of new drugs and diagnostics.

In 2016, the then Chancellor of the Exchequer committed the UK to spend £500m per year for five years (to 2020/21) on combatting malaria. The Prime Minister re-affirmed the £500m commitment at the 2018 Commonwealth Summit. On 1st July 2019, the UK government announced a £1.4 billion pledge to the Sixth Replenishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. This includes up to £200 million to double the value of private sector contributions to the Global Fund, providing £2 for every £1 contributed by the private sector. This contribution to the Global Fund will contribute to meeting this malaria spend commitment.³

In 2016/17 the UK spend on malaria was £499m, and in 2017/18 the UK spend on malaria was £481 million. These figures include all UK government funding on direct malaria programmes, multilateral contributions, research on the development of new drugs and diagnostics, and estimated contributions from wider programmes such as strengthening health systems in malaria affected countries.

3. Methodology summary⁴

The UK government’s expenditure on malaria is through:

- UK malaria-specific bilateral programmes.

¹ World Malaria Report, 2018.

² World Malaria Report, 2018.

³ Written Statement, Secretary of State for International Development, 1st July 2019.

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfid-results-methodology-notes-2018-to-2019>

- UK bilateral funding to activities that have been shown to have an impact on malaria in affected countries. These are health systems and service delivery, maternal and child health, and water and sanitation.
- UK government contributions to multilateral organisations, global initiatives, civil society and other non-state actors that work directly on malaria prevention and treatment or that undertake activities that have been shown to have an impact on malaria in affected countries.
- UK funding to malaria related research on the development of new drugs and diagnostics.

The calculation for UK government spending on malaria in the financial year 2018/19 includes:

- malaria-specific bilateral programme spending and malaria related research spend.
- assumptions regarding the attribution of the proportion of UK health-related spending on non-malaria specific activities that have been shown to have an impact on malaria in affected countries.
- assumptions regarding the proportion of our spending through multilateral organisations that can reasonably be attributed to malaria. This includes contributions from non-malaria-specific activities that have been shown to have an impact on malaria in affected countries. These proportions vary from year to year and this is reflected when calculating attributions. Attribution rates for multilateral organisations use OECD DAC data to calculate an estimated UK share of malaria spend by all multilaterals that deliver health aid and that receive UK core funding.

4. Data sources

The DFID spend data is taken directly from management information systems. Other government departments provide spend data from their management information systems. Other data sources are the WHO World Malaria Report and OECD DAC data. The indicator is calculated on a financial year basis.

5. Data quality notes

Data on spending is taken directly from DFID or other government department financial systems. External data sources used for calculating assumptions are subject to statistical standards. The OECD DAC is the official statistical reporting to the OECD and the World Malaria Report is produced by the WHO. Given the range of underlying sources which feed into the external data sources used, the accuracy is subject to the quality of the underlying data sources.