HIGH MALARIA ACTIVITY IN SWITZERLAND
SWISS MALARIA GROUP (SMG)
A Swiss public, private, research and civil society leadership network for a malaria-free world.

How Switzerland engages

There is high malaria activity in Switzerland because Swiss engagement is effective. Resistance to insecticides and medications threatens the advances we have made in the fight against malaria. Swiss research institutes, pharmaceutical and chemical industries, as well as product development partnerships and NGOs work together on developing innovative drugs, longer-lasting bed nets, effective vector control measures and insecticides that can address resistance. Swiss-based organizations conduct research and implement projects on the ground aiming to reach those in need.

Swiss NGOs, the public and the private sector also carry out prevention work to ensure access to health services and essential treatments. Since 2000, over 850 million people have received Swiss quality medicine without any profit made, millions of bed nets have been distributed and approximately 34 million have been protected through a new generation of indoor spraying produced by a Swiss agricultural company. Thanks to Swiss and international commitment in the fight against malaria, over 6 million lives have been saved since 2000.

How our commitment to end malaria transforms the world:

Ending malaria goes far beyond eliminating one of the world’s oldest and deadliest diseases. It is critical to achieving the collective ambition of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and could generate a ripple effect across the development spectrum.
How ending malaria transforms the world

Malaria remains a heavy burden on the world. For the first time in many years, the disease is resurging in several countries. Today, a child still dies from malaria every two minutes.

The commitment, research and implementation on the ground by Swiss institutions in the fight against this deadly disease has shown success at many levels. Yet as global progress is stalling, we urgently need sustained engagement and increased investment to prevent vulnerable people dying from this disease.

For the 10th World Malaria Day, a week-long roadshow will take place across Switzerland starting Tuesday 17 April and culminating in a main anniversary event in Geneva on Wednesday, 25 April 2018. In seven Swiss cities, we will show surprising examples of how Swiss malaria engagement transforms the world by contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Join us in marking World Malaria Day 2018 and help us spread awareness about the importance of Switzerland's engagement for a malaria-free and healthier world for all.

More information swissmalariagroup.ch
Why malaria has to be defeated

Malaria interventions are one of the most cost-effective interventions in public health. More than half of the world’s population live with the continuous threat of being infected by a mosquito. Malaria continues to be a threat to the socio-economic development of 91 countries worldwide. Most of the 445,000 lives lost this past year were of young children and the majority of victims live in Southern Africa. Remarkable progress has been achieved in the fight against malaria over the past 15 years with more than 6 million lives saved and a 45 percent decrease in the number of cases between 2000 and 2015.

Relieving the malaria burden will directly contribute to achieving target 3.3 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which specifically aims to end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases by 2030.

The Swiss and global engagement against malaria is affecting the future of millions of people. With the rising threat of climate change and drug resistances, efforts must be stepped up now so as to make malaria history.
Malaria traps the most disadvantaged of our society in a spiral of sickness, suffering and poverty. Innovative investments in malaria will help break the disease-poverty cycle and enable people to build sustainable futures. Studies have shown that malaria elimination programmes were associated with less work disability and higher incomes achieved when reaching adulthood. Productivity loss and time spent on caregiving puts a burden on households. In populations that struggle to live on US$ 2.5 per person and day, the direct health expenditure costs of each malaria episode is at least US$ 2.67.

In economies that heavily depend on agriculture, reducing malaria increases productivity and contributes to national food security as well as greater rural prosperity. Agriculture and malaria have a two-way effect as some agricultural practices or malpractices increase the risk of malaria transmission and malaria burden reduces agricultural productivity. In high-burden areas, people who suffer from malaria can work their fields less consistently, resulting in worse harvests and higher food insecurity. Swiss organizations from both civil society and the corporate sector have recognized that productive agriculture relies on healthy peasant families who engage in vector control.
Up to 50% of preventable school absenteeism in Africa is caused by malaria. Less malaria means that children can go to school and take better advantage of their schooling. Malaria control campaigns positively affected the amount of schooling years that pupils completed, as well as the grades they achieved. This is increasing their chances to lead a productive and healthy life.

Each time a child or a family member falls sick from malaria, 2–4 days have to be spent caregiving, which is often carried out by women and older sisters. When the work of caring for those with malaria drops, women can better engage in generating an income and girls can attend school. Malaria undermines the essential labour output of women who are responsible for the production of 70–80% of food crop in sub-Saharan Africa. Women’s health is therefore essential for food security. Furthermore, pregnant women are at greater risk of contracting malaria and developing a severe strain of the disease.
Large disparities remain in access to health services. Reducing inequalities in access to malaria treatment and prevention bears an enormous potential for sustainable development. An expenditure impact study suggests that for each US dollar invested in malaria control, there was an increase of $US 6.75 in GDP per capita. As malaria is most entrenched in low income countries and affects the poorest most severely, collective engagement to fight malaria reduces economic inequalities, between countries as well as amongst the population. As healthier populations can participate more actively in society, reducing malaria also encourages the reduction of a range of other inequalities, for example in the area of school attendance.

Climate change is expected to increase the malaria burden in several regions, as climatic conditions will become more favorable for malaria transmitting mosquitoes. Substantive investments to push back malaria and prevent climate change therefore need to be undertaken as soon as possible. Without this, there is a high threat that child mortality will increase again. Over 90% of malaria deaths occur amongst children under five.
Swiss engagement is effective. United against malaria and successful together for the future of millions. Let’s take our share of responsibility.

Swiss Malaria Group members

Associated member

Event partner

High Malaria Activity in Switzerland