

Countries are taking action during ‘window of opportunity’ to save lives from malaria and COVID-19

Benin goes door-to-door to protect against malaria -- In mid-March, community health workers in Benin went door-to-door to distribute more than 8 million insecticide-treated mosquito bed nets (ITNs). Benin also completed indoor residual spraying (IRS) and seasonal malaria chemoprevention (SMC) campaigns to reduce malaria risk.

Sierra Leone delivers over 3 million life-saving mosquito nets -- From 22-31 May, Sierra Leone safely conducted the first phase of its ITNs distribution campaign

The RBM Partnership and The African Media and malaria Research Network host a full briefing on lessons learned from this successful campaign tomorrow (16 June) at 16:00 CEST. Join the session here.

Status of insecticide-treated mosquito net distribution campaigns

In 2020, 29 countries have plans to distribute approximately 200 million ITNs. These life-saving nets are responsible for preventing 68% of malaria deaths in Africa since 2000. Effective for up to three years, insecticide-treated nets serve at risk populations by:

- Protecting an average of two people sleeping under the net by providing a physical and chemical barrier from the malaria mosquito; and,
- Reducing malaria transmission within a community.

State of malaria snapshot

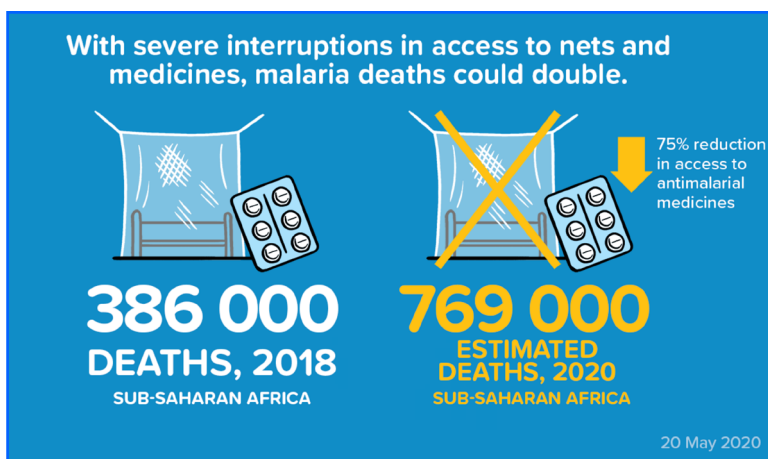
- According to the World Health Organization’s latest World malaria Report, there were **386,000** malaria deaths in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2018
- New data from the World Health Organization shows that COVID-19 is threatening to double deaths against malaria in Sub-Saharan Africa, reaching up to **769,000** deaths in 2020.
- The vast majority of countries are proceeding with their LLIN, IRS and SMC campaigns whilst practicing safe physical distancing. **15** countries launched national **Zero Malaria Starts With Me** campaigns

Call your government to action:

- Conduct anti-malaria campaigns ahead of the rainy season
- Follow [WHO’s Guidelines for Maintaining Essential Health Services](#)
- Keep frontline health workers in communities and protected with PPEs
- Maintain essential health services and increase investments in strengthening health systems to address malaria and COVID-19.

Tips to stay safe from malaria even during COVID-19:

- Sleep under a treated mosquito net
- Seek treatment if you or a family member has a fever
- Follow recommended [safety protocols and social distancing guidelines](#) when seeking diagnosis and treatment
- Hold your country accountable to maintain essential health services and access to proven life-saving malaria interventions.



Status of insecticide-treated mosquito net distribution campaigns in Africa: (as of June 2020)



Source: RBM Partnership to End Malaria

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Resources:

- [Country by country modeling analysis](#) of potential impact of COVID in sub-Saharan African
- Check the status of anti-malaria campaigns in your country with RBM Partnership [country tracker](#)
- WHO updated [Q&A](#) on use of hydroxychloroquine and artemisia
- RBM Partnership COVID-19 and malaria [resource page](#)

What's coming up?

- **16 June:** The RBM Partnership to End Malaria and The African Media and malaria Research Network (AMMREN) host a media briefing on malaria and COVID-19: Lessons learnt from successful net distribution in Sierra Leone. 16:00 CEST – journalists can join the briefing through this link [here](#)
- **30 June:** 15th anniversary of the establishment of the [U.S. President's Malaria Initiative](#)
- **30 June:** 2nd RBM Partnership to End Malaria & AMMREN media briefing – details TBC
- **2 July:** 2nd anniversary of the launch of the pan-African Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign jointly led by the African Union Commission and the RBM Partnership to End Malaria.