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.

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**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.

**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.

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**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.

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With severe interruptions in access to nets and medicines, malaria deaths could double.

**386,000**

DEATHS, 2018

**769,000**

ESTIMATED DEATHS, 2020

**SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

20 May 2020

WHO
Resources:
- **Country by country modeling analysis** of potential impact of COVID in sub-Saharan Africa
- 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.