



© IVCC / Jed Stone

## Unitaid and Malaria

Unitaid is committed to finding innovative ways to prevent, diagnose and treat malaria more quickly, affordably and effectively. Unitaid's projects contributed to a 60 percent decrease in malaria deaths between 2000 and 2015.

Our work:

### Prevention

- A US\$ 65 million investment to support the development of affordable, new-generation insecticides for spraying homes.
- A three-year intervention (2015-2017) that provided 46 million seasonal malaria chemoprevention treatments to children under five years old across the Sahel region of Africa.
- A US\$ 9.6 million grant to help pilot the world's first malaria vaccine. The project, led by WHO's Malaria Vaccine Implementation Programme with support from Unitaid, Gavi, and the Global Fund, will establish the feasibility, impact and safety of RTS,S, when used as part of a routine immunization programme.

### Testing

- Unitaid has supported innovative, more affordable malaria diagnostics, including high-quality point-of-care tests.
- A US\$ 34 million Unitaid investment helped create a private sector market for quality-assured rapid diagnostic tests in five malaria-endemic countries, and a \$US 9.2 million investment helped establish quality standards for rapid diagnostic tests.

### Treatment

With access to high quality, effective medicines, malaria is curable. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs) to treat malaria.

- Unitaid is supporting two projects to ensure that timely and reliable market information is available on ACTs: 1) \$1.6 million from Unitaid is financing quarterly forecasts to monitor and report on ACT demand including the artemisinin market (the active pharmaceutical ingredient of ACTs); 2) \$2.8 million from Unitaid is contributing to research to understand ACT availability, price and market share at public and private facilities in a number of endemic countries.

- \$34 million from Unitaid is accelerating the global adoption of injectable artesunate (a derivative of artemisinin) to treat severe malaria. A community health worker or parent can administer these suppositories, which buy time for a child with severe malaria to make it to a hospital for full treatment.

### **New grants**

Unitaid's executive board approved the following malaria grants in April 2017:

- A US\$ 50 million investment to support community-based treatment in Africa for malaria in pregnancy.
- A US\$19 million investment to treat suspected cases of severe malaria in children under five with rectal artesunate suppositories. The project, being implemented by the Clinton Health Access Initiative, will identify more than 5,000 cases per year in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria and Uganda.
- A US\$3.4 million investment in Medicines for Malaria Venture to increase availability of new, effective, affordable, user-friendly and quality-assured products for malaria.

### **Among our partners**

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Clinton Health Access Initiative, Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics, The Global Fund, Innovative Vector Control Consortium, Malaria Consortium, PATH, Medicines for Malaria Venture, Population Services International, President's Malaria Initiative, UNICEF, WHO's Global Malaria Programme.

Malaria is an infectious disease caused by parasites of the genus Plasmodium. Female Anopheles mosquitoes carry the parasites, which pass into the human bloodstream when the insects bite. According to WHO, in 2015 there were 212 million cases and 429,000 deaths from malaria worldwide.