

A BIG PUSH AGAINST MALARIA IN THE FRANCOPHONE WORLD



 **ZERO MALARIA
STARTS WITH ME**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Francophone countries are disproportionately affected by malaria:

- 13% of the global population at risk from malaria lives in these countries, but more than 42% of malaria cases and 40% of malaria deaths occur there.
- In 2024, there were an estimated 118 million cases of malaria in Francophone countries, with an incidence rate that has increased by 24% since 2015, and 247,000 deaths, a 5% increase since 2015.

PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

Some Francophone countries have reached elimination milestones. In 2024, Egypt and Cabo Verde were certified malaria-free, joining Algeria, Morocco, and Armenia among Francophone countries that have eliminated the disease since 2000. There have been zero reported malaria deaths in Vanuatu since 2012, Cambodia since 2018 and Viet Nam since 2019.

In some Francophone countries with a high burden, significant progress has been made. Since 2015:

- Equatorial Guinea: 32% reduction in cases
- Ghana (a full-member of the OIF since 2024): 29% reduction in cases and 32% reduction in deaths.
- Rwanda: 75% reduction in cases
- Senegal: 45% reduction in cases and deaths

In other Francophone countries in Africa, however, malaria rates remain worryingly high. Different factors have contributed to the stalling of progress.

- Rapid population growth in malaria-endemic regions.
- The emergence or expansion of parasite resistance to antimalarial medicines and mosquito resistance to insecticides.
- Disruptions from health emergencies, including epidemics, pandemics, humanitarian crises and natural disasters.
- Insufficient access to prevention and treatment in vulnerable populations.

HEALTH SOVEREIGNTY AND DOMESTIC FINANCING



Health sovereignty and domestic resource mobilisation – including through priority setting, financial autonomy, and regional manufacturing capacity – are critical to accelerating malaria elimination in Francophone countries.

The global health landscape, shaped by geopolitical shifts, declining donor funding, competing priorities and recurrent health emergencies, is changing rapidly. The countries most affected by malaria must have a voice in global health decision-making. They must be equal partners in the bodies that decide on and implement global health strategy, funding and activities. These are the principles of health sovereignty – the ability of countries to finance and govern their own health systems

Alongside this, there is a growing urgency for countries to increase domestic investment in malaria; this has grown significantly in the last decade and now contributes around a third of all funding for malaria control and elimination efforts.

For example, Benin increased its national malaria budget nearly four-fold between 2020 and 2025, from US\$1.7 million to US\$6.3 million, through a coordinated advocacy strategy involving government, civil society, parliament, and the private sector. This increased investment coincided with:

- 37% reduction in malaria cases
- 55% reduction in deaths.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCING



Without sufficient funding, national malaria strategies cannot fully implement prevention, treatment, and surveillance programmes. The Global Fund has been an important source of international funding; by 2022, the Global Fund had invested US\$6.4 billion to fight malaria in 28 Francophone countries.

However, malaria control efforts now face a widening financing gap. In 2024:

- Global malaria funding reached US\$3.9 billion, far below the US\$9.3 billion needed annually.
- This funding gap increased from US\$2.6 billion in 2019 to US\$5.3 billion in 2024.

Official Development Assistance (ODA) for health is declining, and major funding mechanisms face pressures. For example:

- The Global Fund expects to reduce its country allocations for its 8th funding cycle by 23% following the mobilisation of US\$12.64 billion out of the US\$18 billion target.
- Economic modeling shows that the negative repercussions of these cuts could lead to a US\$30 billion reduction in Africa's GDP and a US\$30 billion reduction in bilateral trade by 2040.

THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR



The private sector has an essential role to play in Francophone countries' fight against malaria.

A wide range of businesses contribute to the fight against malaria, through activities such as:

- The private health sector – clinics and pharmacies – is involved directly, extending access to testing and treatment.

- Workplace malaria programmes delivered by employers in industries such as agriculture, tourism, and extractives. In these industries, malaria causes absenteeism and threatens productivity and profitability.
- Research, manufacturing, and distribution.
- Logistics such as warehousing, route-to-market and cold-chain.
- Public awareness campaigns.

The public and private sectors work together through End Malaria Councils – which have mobilised over US\$210 million across 12 African countries since 2020 – chambers of commerce, sector platforms, and formal public-private partnerships.

In Francophone Africa, examples of companies that have made significant investments to contribute to malaria control are:

- Canal+ (a major Francophone media company), which has contributed over \$1.5 million in in-kind contributions since 2021.
- Endeavour Mining (a major gold mining company in West Africa), which invests US\$650–700,000 annually in malaria control programs.

INNOVATING AGAINST MALARIA



Innovation against malaria has not stopped. In the pipeline are the next generation of interventions that will accelerate malaria elimination.

Recent major milestones are:

- The development of dual-insecticide mosquito nets, which improve malaria control by 20–50% compared with standard pyrethroid-only nets. The roll-out of these new, improved nets has been rapid – in 2025, more than 70% of nets delivered in sub-Saharan Africa were dual-insecticide nets.
- The introduction of malaria vaccines. The RTS,S/AS01 and R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccines targeting *Plasmodium falciparum* were being used in 24 countries by October 2025, and next-generation vaccines, which aim to be even more protective and block community transmission, are already in the research pipeline.

Other innovations used against malaria include seasonal malaria chemoprevention, protecting millions of children each year, targeted indoor residual spraying, and spatial repellents. And drones equipped with high-resolution cameras and GPS are being used to help map and monitor mosquito breeding sites in hard-to-reach areas, allowing for precise interventions.

Emerging innovations include:

- Genomic surveillance to track the spread of the parasite, detect drug-resistance mutations, and understand how it is transmitted.
- Digital dashboards for real-time monitoring.
- Gene drive technologies designed to reduce mosquito populations or block transmission.

PUTTING WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE OF THE FIGHT AGAINST MALARIA



Malaria disproportionately affects women and children. Community-based initiatives that centre these demographic groups are therefore essential and serve to build a 'whole-of-society' approach. Examples include:

- Malaria Youth Corps, mobilising young leaders in 19 African countries, led by ALMA.
- Voix EssentiELLES, supporting 76 women-led organisations in Francophone Africa to shape health policy and deliver community programmes, led by Speak Up Africa.

These initiatives strengthen accountability, improve community trust, and ensure malaria strategies reflect local realities.

Download **A Big Push Against Malaria in the Francophone World** from:

<https://www.speakupafrika.org/a-big-push-against-malaria-in-the-francophone-world/>



CALLS TO ACTION

This report calls on the Francophone world to collectively commit to maintaining malaria elimination as a core development priority. This acknowledges the severe burden that malaria continues to have on many Francophone countries, and the enormous benefit that elimination would have for both endemic countries and the world at large.

It urges all Francophone countries to demonstrate collective leadership and solidarity by supporting the adoption of an ambitious and action-oriented resolution on malaria at the next Summit of the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) in November 2026.

Five priority actions:

1. PUSH FOR HEALTH SOVEREIGNTY AND ROBUST DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILISATION

Countries affected by malaria must continue to lead and, through an equitable transition, progressively finance their own national malaria strategies, grounded on science and evidence.

2. PUSH FOR SUSTAINED DONOR FINANCING THROUGH EXISTING AND DIVERSIFIED SOURCES

We call on international donors to sustain solidarity and support to malaria endemic countries through existing multilateral financing mechanisms such as the Global Fund and Gavi, as well as through bilateral agreements.

3. PUSH FOR STRONGER PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

The private sector must move from the margins to the centre of the malaria response – as a strategic partner, not just a funder.

4. PUSH FOR AN ACCELERATED INNOVATION PIPELINE

Innovation must be accelerated, and made accessible, acceptable and affordable for the countries and communities that need it most.

5. PUSH FOR A WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY APPROACH TO MALARIA

We call on governments and partners to embed gender-responsive and youth-led approaches across malaria strategies, recognising the disproportionate burden that malaria places on women, children and adolescents.

ZERO MALARIA STARTS WITH ME

Launched in Senegal in 2014 on World Malaria Day, this national citizen movement for malaria elimination is part of a broader advocacy strategy aimed at making malaria elimination a political priority and ensuring national commitment. In July 2018, during the 31st African Union Summit, and in support of the African Union's goal to end malaria by 2030, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union adopted the 'Zero Malaria Starts with Me' campaign. By endorsing the campaign, African Union leaders sent a strong signal: malaria elimination is a national, regional, and continental priority. To date, more than 30 African Union Member States have launched the campaign.

SPEAK UP AFRICA

Speak Up Africa is an African organisation committed to building an Africa where growth and sustainable development are driven by African citizens themselves. We unite, inspire, and advocate. With a focus on strategic communications, policies, and advocacy, we are dedicated to helping African leaders and citizens actively participate in identifying and developing solutions to address major challenges on our continent such as malaria, neglected tropical diseases, vaccination, sanitation, gender equality, education and global health research and development.

www.speakupafrika.org

AFRICAN LEADERS MALARIA ALLIANCE

Founded in 2009, the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) is a ground-breaking coalition of African Heads of State and Government working across country and regional borders to achieve a malaria-free Africa by 2030.

<http://www.alma2030.org>

FRIENDS OF THE GLOBAL FUND EUROPE

Friends of the Global Fund Europe (Friends Europe) is a non-profit organisation established in France in 2005 under the high patronage of the President of the French Republic. Its mission is to carry out political advocacy activities in Europe for global health and the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, particularly in support of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

The actions it undertakes aim to raise awareness among relevant audiences about the challenges posed by these three epidemics and global health, especially decision-makers, parliamentarians, civil society organisations, and members of the academic and research communities, and to contribute to mobilising the resources needed to fight these diseases, including for the benefit of the Global Fund.

www.friendseurope.org

RBM PARTNERSHIP TO END MALARIA

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria is the world's largest platform dedicated to eliminating malaria, a mission it has championed since 1998. With over 500 partners, including malaria-endemic countries, bilateral and multilateral development agencies, private sector organisations, and community-based groups, RBM is accelerating collective action to end malaria through one last Big Push – a unified voice and action to confront the disease and its impact on people, health systems and development.

<https://endmalaria.org/who-we-are/about-us>