



## Newsletter #23 April 2022 World Malaria Day

World Malaria Day will be celebrated on April 25. To mark this occasion we consider how the Covid pandemic has diverted medical resources from the ongoing fight against malaria and that more needs to be done if the World Health Organisation's (WHO) target for malaria reduction is to be reached by 2030.

### Background

Malaria is a preventable and treatable disease that continues to have a devastating impact on the health and livelihood of people around the world. Despite steady advances in lowering the global burden of malaria between 2000 and 2015, progress has slowed or stalled in recent years, particularly in high burden countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

Thus urgent and concerted action will be needed to set the world back on a trajectory toward achieving the 2030 targets of the [WHO global malaria strategy](#). However, resources that would otherwise have been available for treating malaria will have been diverted to fighting the pandemic.

In 2020, there were an estimated 241 million new cases of malaria and 627 000 malaria-related deaths in 85 countries. This represents about 14 million more cases compared to the previous year, and 69 000 more deaths. Approximately two-thirds of the additional deaths (47 000) were linked to disruptions in the provision of malaria prevention, diagnosis and treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic. More than two thirds of deaths were among children under the age of 5 living in the WHO African Region.

### Some ways forward

#### *Step up innovation*

No single tool that is available today will solve the problem of malaria. Investment is needed that bring new vector control approaches, diagnostics, antimalarial medicines and other tools to speed the pace of progress against malaria.

#### *Expand access to the tools we have now*

There is an urgent need to make more effective use of currently available tools for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of malaria, particularly in countries hardest hit by malaria.



#### *Expand the use of RTS,S – the first malaria vaccine*

WHO recommends the expanded use of the vaccine among children living in areas with moderate and high malaria transmission. If implemented broadly, the vaccine could save tens of thousands of lives each year

### What Scouts are doing

UK Scouts have formed a global partnership with African Scout Associations in Uganda, Malawi, Ghana and Gambia and the World Organisation of Scouting Movements (WOSM) Africa office.



UK Scouts learn about this disease, how it can be prevented and raise funds to purchase long life insecticide treated bed nets (ITNs).

These funds are then sent to the above Scout Associations who purchase these nets and then go into a community, educate families how malaria can be prevented, how to recognise malaria symptoms and advise where help is available is bitten. Scouts help to distribute ITN nets, erect them where necessary and advise on the importance of eliminating any stagnant pools of water where mosquitos can breed..

*Distributing bed nets, Kasakoso Community, Kampala, Uganda*



This initiative forms part of WOSM's initiative *Scouts for SDGs* and contributes directly to the *Sustainable Development Goals* –

- Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well being for all ages
- Promoting global partnerships
- Providing inclusive education and life long learning
- Making human settlements resilient and sustainable

*A Scout erecting a bed net for a family with young children, NyameBekyere Village,*

*Ashanti District, Ghana*

### Joining the global partnership

If you or your Section/Group is willing to join the global partnership to fight malaria, visit our website [www.scoutsagainstmalaria.org.uk](http://www.scoutsagainstmalaria.org.uk) or email us at [info@scoutsagainstmalaria.org.uk](mailto:info@scoutsagainstmalaria.org.uk).

On line resources including videos of campaigns are available on the SAM website, which can be downloaded and are suitable for on-line learning for both individual Scouts and for sectional meetings. So do publicise our activities wherever possible and help save a life.

If only more Scout Groups undertook the SAM activities as part of our global programme zone and raised on average £5 per Scout for purchasing and distributing ITN nets, Scouts could make a greater difference and save lives

Editor Rayner Mayer