

World Malaria Day

April 25

For decades, the celebration of World Malaria Day has been a positive event to update and educate the public on the status of malaria in our world. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Malaria 2024 Report (1) shows an increase of 11 million cases of malaria from the previous year. Malaria-affected countries have a lot of challenges, including long-running humanitarian crises, limited funding, and the effects of climate change. Although hard hit, most countries were able to maintain services to prevent, detect and treat malaria; however, nearly 600,000 people die of malaria every year – 76% of deaths are children. Although the number of cases has risen, the number of deaths has actually decreased by 8% due to treatment. There are declines in the effectiveness of malaria-fighting tools such as resistance to insecticide-treated nets and to anti-malarial drug regimens. WHO recommends expanded use of a malaria vaccine among children in areas with moderate and high malaria transmission. If implemented broadly, the vaccine could save tens of thousands of lives each year.

(1) <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240064898>

Malaria Facts

- Malaria is a preventable and treatable disease that continues to have a devastating impact on the health and livelihood of people around the world.
- In 2023, there were an estimated 263 million new cases of malaria and 597,000 malaria-related deaths in 83 countries.
- Nearly 3/4 of deaths from malaria were among children under the age of 5 living in the WHO African Region.

Prayer Petitions

Make us vigilant, attentive, and proactive in the eradication of malaria and all diseases that create suffering and often result in death for many people. Hear our cry, O Lord,

Strengthen and encourage those in public health services and in the medical profession: caregivers, nurses, attendants, doctors, all who commit themselves to caring for the sick and their families. We welcome the development of an effective malaria vaccine and pray that it reaches those most in need. Hear our cry, O Lord.

Inspire, give insight, and hope to all researchers focused on developing vaccines. Hear our cry, O Lord.

Heal our world, heal our bodies, strengthen our hearts and our minds, and in the midst of turmoil, give us hope and peace. Hear our cry, O Lord.

Adopted from The Lutheran World Federation's prayer for COVID-19

Activities

Using the model created by the CDC for inspiration, create an infographic about malaria.

https://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/infographics/malaria-parasitic-diseases/world_malaria_day.htm

Organize a collection towards the purchase of Insecticide-Treated Bed Nets.

https://www.cdc.gov/malaria/malaria_worldwide/reduction/itn.html