



November 6

MALARIA

Day in the Americas

Counting Malaria Out: Towards the 2010 Targets and the UN Millennium Development Goals

Malaria Day in the Americas

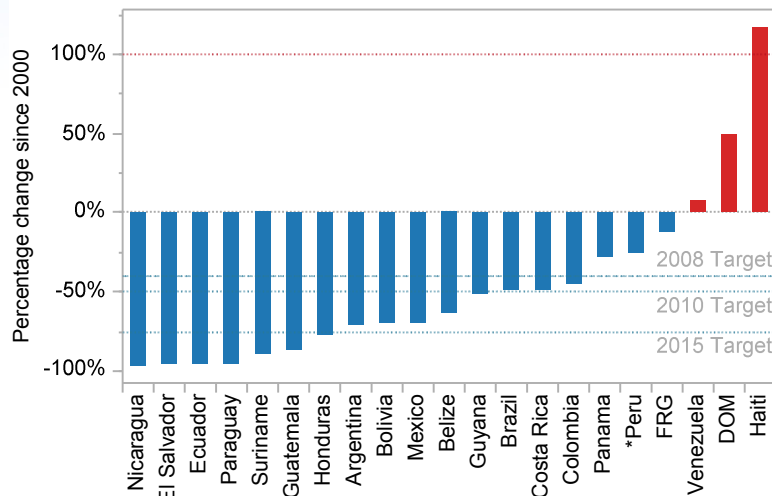
The 27th Pan American Sanitary Conference approved and established 6 November to annually commemorate Malaria day in the Americas. On its third year of commemoration, it is envisioned to be the platform upon which countries of the region can engage in a year-round aggressive campaign against the disease. Specifically, Malaria Day in the Americas seeks to attain the following objectives:

- Improve the communication process and extension of advocacy work to all stakeholders and target audiences.
- Enhance visibility/interest on Malaria in the region of Americas and the scourge that the disease brings to people globally.
- Increase awareness and understanding of the key issues among target audience/population.
- Catalyze change of attitudes and modification of behaviours.
- Generate advocacy/support from the public, policy makers, clients and strategic partners.
- Encourage increased and enduring support to efforts against malaria

In 2008, Malaria endemic countries in the region reported a decrease in the incidence of malaria by 50.4% in comparison to 2000. Twelve of these countries have already achieved the 2010 target (50% reduction in malaria incidence) of which three countries have reported >90% reduction since 2000. A total number of 569,519 confirmed cases of malaria were reported in the 21 endemic countries in 2008 and an additional 897 imported cases were reported by non-endemic countries. There were 153 malaria related deaths in 2008 in the region; this represents a 57% reduction in mortality due to malaria since 2000.

However, challenges remain as three countries have reported an increase in malaria cases, especially the island of Hispaniola shared by Haiti & Dominican Republic. There is also need for sustained and increasing efforts to further decrease the morbidity due to malaria in the whole region.

Change in Malaria Incidence in Americas, 2000-2008



DOM- Dominican Republic, FRG- French Guiana
*2007 Data for Peru

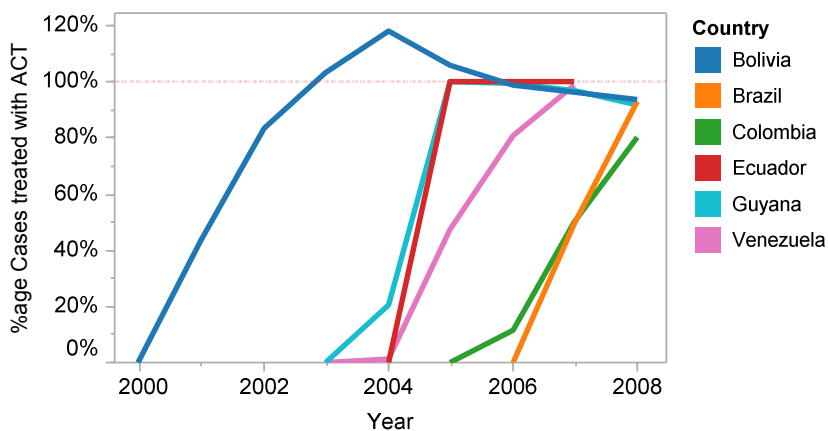
Diagnosis & Treatment

Falciparum

Vivax

Plasmodium vivax is the most prevalent parasite accounting for 77% of malaria cases in the region while *P. falciparum* is endemic in the Amazon sub-region & Hispaniola. Microscopic slide examination is used by all 21 endemic countries for diagnosis. Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDTs) are used in remote areas of 11 countries; however RDT positive cases are subject to reconfirmation by microscopy. 21,000 RDTs were used in 2008. *P. falciparum* cases are treated with Artemisinin Combination Therapy (ACT) as first line of treatment by all eight countries in the Amazon sub-region but not in Hispaniola, Mexico & Central America where the parasite is still sensitive to Chloroquine. By 2008, all the Amazon countries had achieved a near 100% treatment rate of falciparum cases with ACTs (see figure).

P. falciparum cases treated with ACT



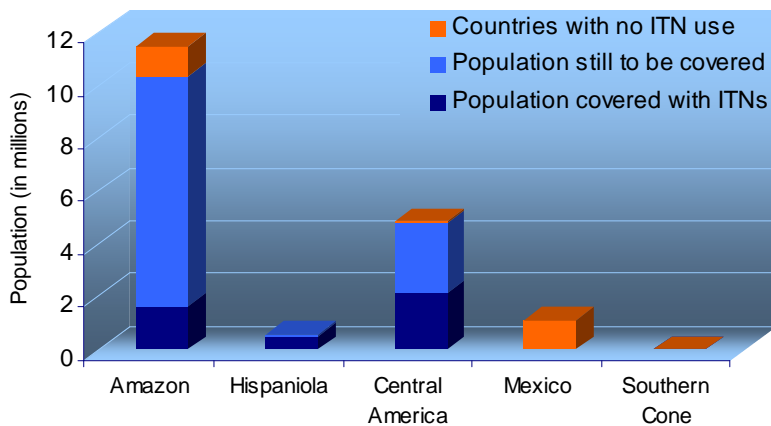
*Data NA for Peru & Suriname

By 2008, all the Amazon countries had achieved a near 100% treatment rate of falciparum cases with ACTs (see figure).

Population at Risk & Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs)

Approximately 57% of the total population in the Americas resides in areas considered to pose variable risk of contracting malaria. Of these, 26 million are estimated to be in moderate and 17 million in high risk areas, based on malarial incidence rates. Up till 2008, ITNs have been used in 14 of the 21 endemic countries; 38% of the people living in high-risk areas in these 14 countries have been covered with ITNs.

High Risk Population & ITN Coverage by Sub-region, 2004-08

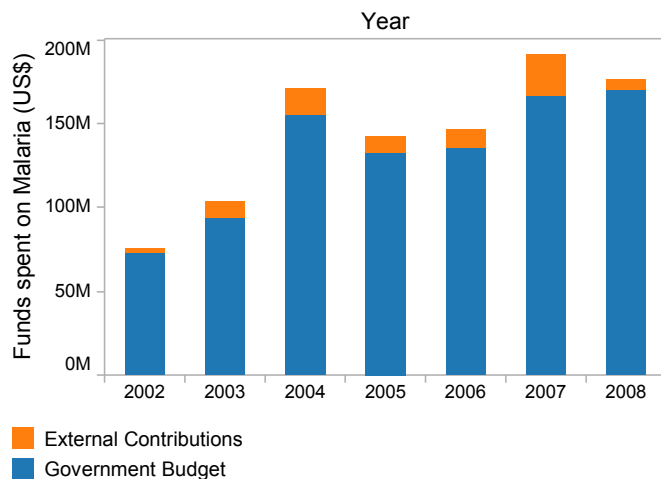


AMI/RAVREDA

In 2001, countries requested PAHO to develop the *Amazon Network for the Surveillance of Antimalarial Drug Resistance* (RAVREDA). With the support of USAID funded *Amazon Malaria Initiative* (AMI), CDC, and subsequent partnerships with USP MSH, Links Media & RTI, RAVREDA developed a surveillance system for anti-malarial drug resistance in Amazon countries. The goal was to generate reliable evidence-based and standardized drug efficacy information for decision-making. As a result of country efforts supported by the AMI, all countries sharing the Amazon rainforest have made treatment policy changes and are using ACTs for the treatment of *Plasmodium falciparum* leading to a 67% reduction in *Plasmodium falciparum* cases in the Amazon since 2001.

Funds

Funding of Malaria Control in Americas



Government allocations in annual budgets form the majority of funds available for malaria control in the region. External contributions from donor agencies form a small amount for malaria control but are vital for countries like Haiti, where they account for nearly the entire amount spent. The total funds spent have increased over the years, and in the face of decreasing number of malaria cases is an encouraging indicator of the resolve of member countries in the region towards further malaria reduction.

Elimination

Malaria elimination in countries in the region is also on track. Jamaica and Bahamas, which reported outbreaks in 2006, are presently trying to prevent re-establishment of Malaria. Indicators in Argentina, El-Salvador, Mexico & Paraguay suggest that they are in the pre-elimination phase of Malaria control.

Indoor Residual Spraying

The number of households sprayed decreased in the 1990s as countries continued phasing out use of DDT, substituting it with other insecticides in some countries while stopping it altogether in others. Presently, Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) is used as the primary vector control measure in 11 of the 21 endemic countries, while another 4 countries use it for malaria prevention and outbreak control. In 2005 and 2008 Venezuela reportedly sprayed 2.9 & 2.8 million homes respectively, accounting for the large increases seen in years since 2000.

Indoor Residual Spraying in Americas, 1990-2008

