

# Malaria in the Americas



**Malaria** is a disease caused by the Plasmodium parasite, transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito. **Most common malarial parasites in the Americas are *Plasmodium vivax* and *P. falciparum*.**

The symptoms include fever, vomiting and headache, and appear 10 to 15 days after the mosquito bite.



## Prevention

Use of insecticide treated nets at home and indoor residual spraying of insecticides decrease exposure to bites of infected mosquitoes.



**106 M** people in the Americas live in areas at risk for malaria.

Non endemic countries report 2,000 cases (imported or introduced) per year, mostly in the United States and Canada.

## Diagnosis

**Blood slides** are examined under a microscope to diagnose malaria. Rapid malaria diagnostic test kits (RDTs) can also be used in remote areas where microscopes are unavailable.



**November 6**

## Treatment

**Chloroquine** and **Primaquine** are the treatment of choice for *P. vivax* and *P. falciparum* in countries where these parasites remain sensitive.

Artemisinin-based combination therapy is used as the primary treatment for *P. falciparum* in countries with resistance to chloroquine.

Approximately **70%** reduction in deaths and **60%** reduction in cases (2000–2011).

## Strategy & Plan of action 2011-2015

- 75% reduction of malaria morbidity
- 25% reduction of malaria related deaths
- Malaria elimination in feasible areas
- Reverse the trend in countries where malaria cases have increased
- Prevent the reintroduction of malaria in countries already declared malaria-free.

## PAHO Key Actions

- Malaria prevention, surveillance, early detection, and containment of outbreaks.
- Integrated vector management.
- Malaria diagnosis and treatment.
- Advocacy, communication, and partnerships.
- Health systems strengthening, strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation, operational research, and country-level capacity-building.