

## Malaria Basics

### **Malaria is a killer disease**

A child dies from malaria every 30 seconds.

Malaria causes more than a million deaths and contributes to an additional 1.7 million annually.

In Africa, malaria is the leading cause of death for children under the age of five.

Malaria threatens more than 40% of the world's population.

"The malaria epidemic is like loading up seven Boeing 747 airliners each day, then deliberately crashing them into Mt Kilimanjaro."

—Dr Wenceslaus Kilama, Chairman, Malaria Foundation International

### **Malaria keeps poor people poor**

Malaria costs Africa US\$12 billion every year in lost GDP, holding back economic and social development.

Malaria can account for 40% of total government spending on health.

In some countries malaria accounts for up to half of all hospital admissions and outpatient visits.

Poor families spend up to 25% of their annual income on direct malaria prevention and treatment costs. Additional, indirect costs include lost income and lost productivity due to absences from work due to illness or caring for those who are suffering from malaria.

### **Beyond saving lives...**

Beyond saving lives, rolling back malaria will promote development by:

- Protecting wage earners
- Improving productivity
- Safeguarding attendance at schools
- Preserving children's learning ability



**What is needed ?**

- A combination of proven prevention and treatment;
- Malaria control strategies incorporated into all development policies, strategies and programmes;
- A coordinated and effective partnership effort;
- Sustained research and development of new weapons to fight malaria.

**What is the cost of tackling malaria?**

Fighting malaria will take commitment, coordination and cash.

In addition to spending by malaria-endemic countries and current donor support, it will take at least US\$3 billion per year to finance effective malaria control: US\$2 billion in Africa and US\$1 billion elsewhere.