

Advocacy talking points: malaria

Use these message guidelines to:

- ❖ Craft your own message to send to your elected official;
 - ❖ Serve as an outline for conversations with congressional staff during an office visit;
 - ❖ Guide your comments at speaking engagements or other educational or awareness-raising functions.
- **In many developing nations, malaria is one of the leading threats to the life of a child**, resulting in some 750,000 child deaths per year globally or more than 2,000 kids a day. Malaria is the fourth leading cause of child mortality around the world.
 - **Malaria endangers pregnant mothers and babies.** It is responsible for as many as 10,000 maternal deaths a year and results in maternal anemia, spontaneous abortions, neonatal deaths, and low birth-weight babies.
 - **Malaria can be prevented and treated using inexpensive, proven interventions.** Sleeping under a treated bed net, spraying insecticide inside homes, and using the right anti-malarial drugs dramatically reduce the impact of malaria. Unfortunately, for the hundreds of millions of people on less than \$2 per day, these life-saving interventions remain unaffordable and inaccessible.
 - **Malaria and HIV and AIDS are a deadly duo.** Malaria makes AIDS or HIV+ status worse. People infected with HIV are more likely to transmit the virus or become seriously ill when infected with malaria.
 - **The international community must do more to combat malaria.** Each of us has a role. Governments must enhance their responses to malaria and prioritize solutions aimed at and involving local communities.
 - **We affirm the commitments made in passage of the Global AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria bill in July 2008.** World Vision is working to ensure that Congress and the Administration prioritize the fulfillment of U.S. obligations in this historic bill in order to bring relief to millions of people suffering from and affected by these diseases. This includes providing at least \$1 billion a year (or \$5 billion over 5 years) as the law describes.
 - **Through the President's Malaria Initiative** and other anti-malaria programs, the United States has taken steps to reduce the global impact of malaria and has recorded dramatic reductions in child deaths as a result. We commend these efforts. However, despite the grave threat to the lives of children posed by malaria, these successful programs have not received sufficient funding to increase their impact. More must be done. **In order to demonstrate leadership and uphold its commitment to averting this leading cause of child deaths, the United States must:**
 1. Increase the financial contribution in the fight against malaria to \$924 million in FY 2011 or \$1.124 billion when including support for research and development activities. This funding trajectory will put the U.S. government on track to fulfill its commitment to \$5 billion over 5 years for malaria.
 2. Fulfill its commitment per the Global AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Bill to provide \$48 billion over the next five years for HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases.
 3. Support the Global Child Survival Act (Senate) and Newborn, Child and Maternal Survival Act (House), nearly identical bills that would enhance U.S. efforts to address leading causes of child death, including malaria.

To learn more about the threat of malaria and take action on this issue, visit www.endmalaria.org.

Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. — Psalms 82:3-4 (NIV)