

## 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.
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- **In many developing nations, malaria is one of the leading threats to the life of a child**, resulting in approximately 800,000 child deaths per year globally. Each year, malaria kills nearly 1 million people – approximately 85 percent of whom are children – and infects an estimated 250 million individuals. Malaria is the fourth leading cause of child mortality around the world; in sub-Saharan Africa, it is the second leading cause of death for children. Tragically, malaria causes more than 2,000 child deaths a day in Africa, more than double the number of children who die each day from AIDS.
  - **Malaria endangers pregnant mothers and babies** in some of the poorest countries. Almost half of the world's population is at risk of contracting malaria each year, and pregnant mothers and babies are particularly vulnerable. Every year, malaria is responsible for as many as 10,000 maternal deaths and results in maternal anemia, spontaneous abortions, neonatal deaths, and low birth-weight babies.
  - **Malaria can be prevented and treated** using inexpensive, proven interventions. Simple solutions such as 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 and vice versa. A person with malaria is more susceptible to contracting HIV when exposed to the virus, and people infected with HIV are more likely to transmit the virus or become seriously ill with AIDS when infected with malaria.
  - **We affirm the commitments made in passage of the Global AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria bill in July, 2008.** Congress and the Administration should prioritize the fulfillment of U.S. obligations in this historic bill that will bring relief to millions of people suffering from and affected by these diseases.
  - **Through the President's Malaria Initiative** and other anti-malaria programs, the United States has taken steps to reduce the global impact of malaria by benefiting approximately 25 million people in its first two years alone. While we commend these efforts, only a small fraction of the more than 3.3 billion people at risk of malaria each year have been impacted by this initiative. Given the grave threat to the lives of children, these actions have not been sufficient. 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 U.S. government's financial contribution in the fight against malaria to at least \$1 billion a year, thereby fulfilling the Global AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria bill commitment;
    2. Support U.S. leadership of global scale up of proven malaria interventions, such as universal coverage of insecticide treated bed nets;
    3. Given the deadly synergy between HIV and AIDS and malaria, fulfill the commitment to provide \$48 billion over the next five years HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

To learn more about the threat of malaria and take action on this issue, visit [www.seekjustice.org](http://www.seekjustice.org).

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