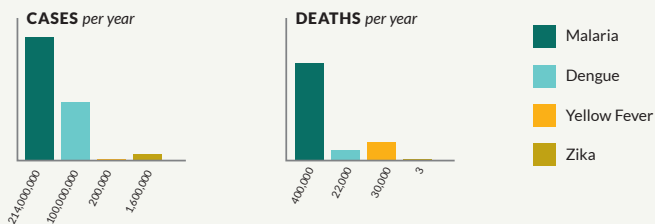


Malaria

in Mombasa, Kenya



MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASES



DISEASE OVERVIEW AND IMPACT

Malaria is one of the developing world's most lethal diseases. It is caused by a parasite that is transmitted by the bites of infected mosquitoes. People with malaria are typically very sick with high fevers, shaking chills, and flu-like illness. Over 400,000 people died from malaria in 2015, and about 214 million cases were identified globally. Nine out of every 10 cases and deaths from malaria occurred in Africa, and the impacts fall disproportionately on children and people living in extreme poverty. Malaria is currently entirely treatable if treatment starts within 24 hours of the first signs of fever. However, malaria drug resistance is already widespread in southeast Asia and is likely to spread to Africa. If this happens malaria will become harder to treat.

For more information, see the Supplemental Information sheet on Malaria and Traditional Control Methods.

CURRENT SITUATION

Malaria is a constant concern in Mombasa, the second largest city in Kenya, especially at the end of the rainy season. Nearly a quarter of Kenyans were infected with malaria in 2015. In 2009, Kenya began a 10-year plan to reduce the incidence of malaria and the number of deaths associated with it. Part of this plan involves distributing insecticide-treated bed nets, but still less than half of Kenyan households own them, and those that own them sometimes use them for fishing instead of sleeping.

CHALLENGES

Certain strains of malaria are becoming increasingly resistant to the antimalarial drugs that are currently available, and the mosquitoes that transmit malaria are increasingly resistant to insecticides.

Source: World Malaria Report 2015, World Health Organization

