

Key facts

- An estimated 145 million people in 21 countries of the Americas are at risk of malaria, and 24 million of them are considered at high risk.
- In 2012, the Americas reported nearly 469,000 confirmed malaria cases and 108 malaria deaths.
- These figures represent a 60% decline in cases and a 72% decline in deaths since 2000.
- Malaria incidence in the Americas declined in 18 of 21 endemic countries between 2000 and 2012.
- Thirteen countries reported declines of over 75% in laboratory-confirmed malaria cases between 2000 and 2012 (Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, French Guiana, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Suriname).
- Three countries are projected to achieve reductions of >75% by 2015 (Brazil, Colombia, and Peru). Two countries are projected to achieve reductions of 25-50% by 2015 (Dominican Republic and Panama). Two countries reported increases in cases between 2000 and 2012 (Guyana, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela). In Haiti, malaria cases increased from 17,000 in 2000 to 25,000 in 2012, but it is unclear whether the rise is real or due to improved diagnostic testing and better reporting.
- Belize moved from the control phase to the pre-elimination phase in 2013, joining six other countries (Argentina, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, and Paraguay); other endemic countries are in the control phase.
- Based on the 2008 Roll Back Malaria [Global Malaria Action Plan](#), global funding needed for malaria control were estimated at over US\$ 5.1 billion per year between 2011 and 2020. Combining domestic and international funds, the funds actually available were estimated at US\$ 2.5 billion in 2012, leaving a global gap of US\$ 2.6 billion.
- In 2012, malaria-endemic countries of the Americas collectively reported an estimated \$142 million in domestic malaria investments / financing.
- While proportionally among the highest across regions, the amount still falls substantially short of the projected annual needs of around \$225 million for the Region to protect its achievements and ensure further progress.

PAHO/WHO's response

Countries of the Americas approved a Strategy and Plan of Action for Malaria 2011-2015 in September 2011 and have set the following targets for 2015:

- Reduce illness from malaria by a further 75%
- Reduce malaria-related deaths by a further 25%
- Implement malaria elimination activities in areas where elimination is feasible (particularly Mesoamerica and the Southern Cone)
- Reverse the trend in countries where malaria cases increased between 2000 and 2010 (the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Venezuela)
- Prevent the reintroduction of malaria in countries already declared malaria-free.

To reach these targets, the [Strategy and Plan of Action for Malaria 2011-2015](#) prioritizes these areas of work:

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

For more information, please visit: www.paho.org/malaria