

## **NetsforLife® Inspiration Fund FAQ Sheet - Malaria**

### **What is Malaria?**

Malaria is a common but deadly disease caused by parasites. Humans contract malaria when a mosquito carrying the parasite bites them, and injects the parasite into the bloodstream.



*Photo courtesy of John Robinson for Episcopal Relief & Development.*

### **What are the symptoms of Malaria?**

Malaria symptoms typically appear 10 to 16 days after the infectious mosquito bite, when the infected red blood cells begin to burst. Victims experience flu-like symptoms, including chills, fever, sweating, nausea, headache and vomiting.

### **What kind of parasite carries Malaria?**

There are four species of parasites that cause malaria in humans. The most common species in Africa is the *Plasmodium falciparum* species, which causes the most virulent form of the disease and can be fatal within hours if not treated.

### **Who is most vulnerable to Malaria?**

Nearly one million people die from malaria each year, mostly children younger than five years old. Young children are most vulnerable because they have not built up any immunity to the disease, and without immunity, the infections tend to be more severe and life-threatening.

Pregnant women are at risk because their immune systems are compromised by pregnancy. Additionally, infants born to women who had malaria during their pregnancies tend to be of low birth weight or premature, both of which decrease their chances of survival during their first years.

### **What is effect of Malaria in sub-Saharan Africa?**

Malaria is a public health problem in more than 100 countries in the world, resulting in 250 million cases of infection annually. 90% of all malaria deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa due to lack of available prevention and treatment options, as well as the prevalence of Malaria infected mosquitos, and Malaria costs an estimated \$12 billion in lost productivity in Africa.

### **How can Malaria be prevented?**

The front line of defense in preventing malaria is the use of long-lasting insecticide-treated nets, which simultaneously provide a protective covering for the body while releasing chemicals to repel and kill the infection-carrying mosquitoes.

Recent technology has dramatically improved nets by infusing the insecticide in the netting material, making the nets effective for up to five years.

Long-lasting insecticide-treated nets mark a new era in fighting malaria.

Join us! To learn about the fight against malaria, please contact us at [inspirationfund@er-d.org](mailto:inspirationfund@er-d.org) or visit us at [www.inspirationfund.org](http://www.inspirationfund.org).