

## Evidence of Success in Improving Women's Health

### Focusing Investment to Widen Returns: The Example of Malaria

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Rome 22 June 2009, G8 Parliamentarians Briefing



## UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG)

By the year 2015, all 191 United Nations Member States have pledged to meet these goals

8 GOALS

MALARIA

- 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- 2 Achieve universal primary education
- 3 Promote gender equality and empower women
- 4 Reduce child mortality
- 5 Improve maternal health
- 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- 7 Ensure environmental sustainability
- 8 Develop a global partnership for development



## Maternal Health



Maternal Mortality – 1500 die every day from pregnancy or childbirth related complications

Estimated half a million maternal deaths worldwide ; 99% in developing countries; more than half in Sub Saharan Africa

Between 1990 and 2005 – maternal mortality ratio declined by only **5%**

**Maternal health MDG 5 Target : reducing maternal mortality by three quarters by 2015**

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## Maternal Health & Malaria

- Half the world's population at risk
- **1 million malaria deaths** per year
- **90 %** of deaths occur in sub Saharan Africa - mainly women and children
- **3,000** die every day from malaria



In countries heavily affected by malaria, pregnant women and children under five most vulnerable: pregnant women 4 times more likely to contract malaria

Malaria in pregnancy leads to low birth weight and premature delivery, both are associated with an increased risk of neonatal death; 200,000 newborn deaths each year due to malaria

Malaria infection in Africa causes 400,000 cases of severe maternal anemia contributing to maternal mortality

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## Malaria's Burden on Women

Women & Mothers bear the brunt of care; they make the difficult decisions between priorities



More than 300 million malaria cases a year – mostly in children

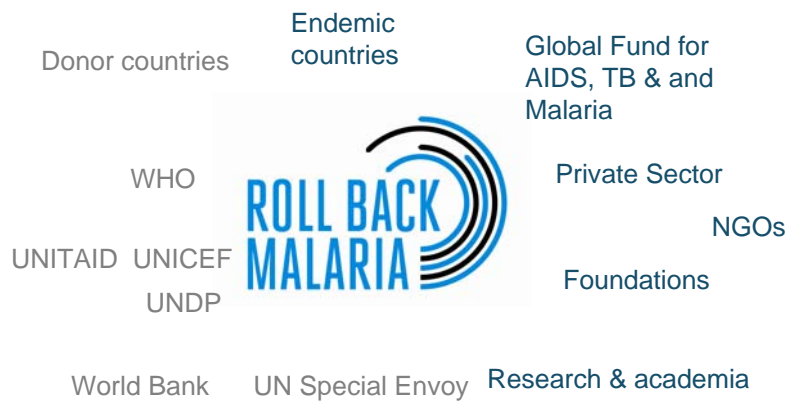
Leading cause of death for 18% of all childhood deaths under the age of 5 in Africa

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## The Roll Back Malaria Partnership



Partnership has identified pregnant women as vulnerable.

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## Addressing the Problem

**Global Malaria Action Plan** : Universal Coverage by 2010 and elimination of malaria as a public health problem by 2015

Malaria Control – insecticide treated nets , effective treatments ACTs, indoor residual spraying with insecticides

Targeted interventions for women

- ITNs free or subsidized
- Preventive treatment during pregnancy
- Promote Gender & Malaria approaches



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## Insecticide Treated Nets for Pregnant Women

Use of an insecticide-treated long lasting net - lowers the risk of malaria infection and the development of anaemia in both pregnant women and in very young children.

- Reducing malarial illness in pregnant women and young children by up to **50%**
- Reducing all-cause mortality in under five year olds by **20%**



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## Malaria Prevention strengthens health systems



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Insecticide treated nets distributed free with routine nationwide immunization campaigns

- Incentives for women - mothers to walk many miles to take part in such campaigns
- Increases immunization uptake
- Integration of health programmes reduces costs of health delivery
- Releases hospital beds e.g. Zambia – health workers able to focus on other health issues



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## Additional benefits – local manufacturing provides jobs



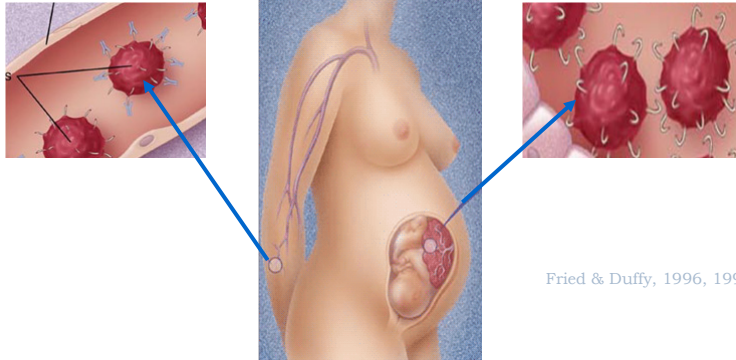
Insecticide treated net factory in Tanzania – stitching facilities in Ethiopia – provide regular incomes for 6,500 women

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## Preventive malaria treatment during pregnancy



Fried & Duffy, 1996, 1998, 2000

- Intermittent preventive treatment (IPT) – 3 x preventive treatment during pregnancy – highly effective means of reducing maternal anaemia, placental parasitaemia, and low birth weight
- Delivered at antenatal clinics – attended by more than 70% pregnant women in African countries
- Costs \$0.10 - \$0.12 cents per treatment - could prevent **75,000 – 200,000** infant deaths per year

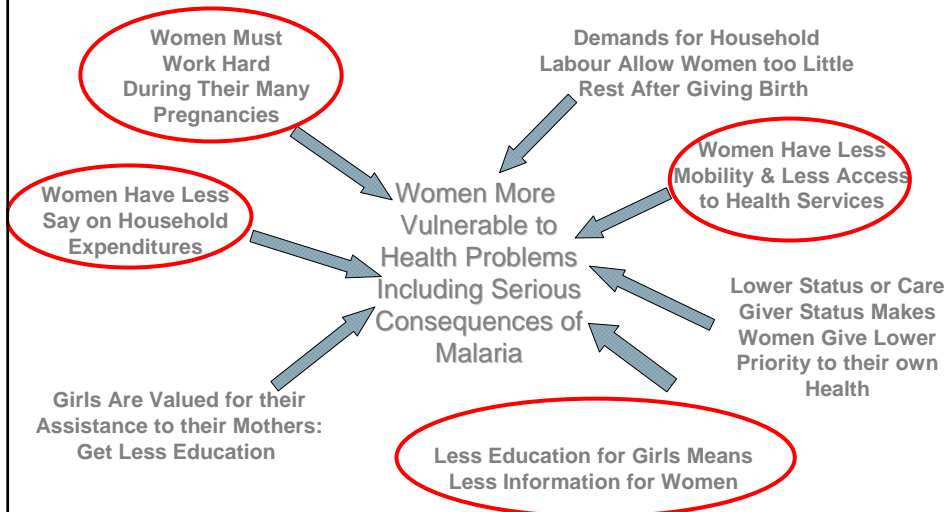
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## Gender Issues as Determinants of Women's Health

Gender inequality a barrier to good health : integrate gender into all aspects of malaria control



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**Focusing  
Investment  
Widens Returns**



**Impact of investment in malaria**

- Improves maternal & reproductive health and child health
- Strengthens health systems
- By employing a gender approach – contributes to empowerment of women



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**Thank you !**

