

Joint Statement on the 2018 World Malaria Report and High Burden Country Response
End Malaria Council

Global progress in the fight against malaria represents one of the greatest public health achievements of this century. Thanks to a dedicated global partnership of affected countries, donors and institutions and NGOs, we have reduced deaths by more than 60 percent compared to malaria's toll in the early 2000's.

This year's World Malaria Report, however, confirms that for a second year in a row, progress has been uneven. Although half the world's countries are malaria free, cases in the highest burden countries increased. Too many people at risk of malaria, especially pregnant women and young children, don't have access to interventions that are proven to save lives.

The *High Burden to High Impact: A Targeted Malaria Response* has promise to get the malaria response back on track, and, in doing so, save more lives. This approach seeks to reignite progress in the malaria fight and places emphasis on using data and evidence to expand impact. It also acknowledges the importance of strengthening primary health care to deliver malaria interventions to those most in need.

The End Malaria Council commends the leaders of affected countries for putting this plan into action, and commits to leveraging the collective strength of the Council to support these efforts. Together we will continue to drive progress toward ending malaria in the areas of global leadership, ensuring sufficient financing, and accelerating the introduction of new technologies.

This High Burden Response builds on a year of renewed commitments in the fight against malaria. In April, leaders from 53 Commonwealth nations pledged to halve the burden of malaria in those countries by 2023. New financing initiatives were announced to fill resource and capacity gaps in Central America and the Asia-Pacific, and countries in the Sahel and Southern Africa regions set bold new elimination targets. Additionally, the African Union endorsed the "Zero Malaria Starts With Me" campaign that coalesces community-level support for ending malaria.

It is unacceptable that people in half the world's countries are nearing a life free of malaria while the other half still fear death by mosquito bite. We are optimistic that if the world follows through on the High Burden Response and commitments made this year, we will be back on track significantly driving down malaria cases and deaths and ending this disease for good.