



CRS is helping local health workers like Hannatou tackle malaria in their communities. Photo by CRS partner staff

Driving Mission Agility: *Accelerating the End of Malaria*

Imagine one bite from a mosquito endangering the survival of your entire family. This is the reality for those who are at risk of being infected with malaria—half of the world’s population. Children under age 5 and pregnant women are most vulnerable to the disease. Symptoms, such as fever, chills and headaches are often ignored or misdiagnosed. If left untreated, malaria can quickly become fatal. Malaria claims the life of a child every two minutes.

The good news is that we can prevent malaria. Catholic Relief Services envisions a world where all people live in malaria-free communities. We are ready to help end this disease.

Going Far

Through **Go FAR: The Campaign for Catholic Relief Services**, CRS is advancing our mission by working with communities to accelerate the end of malaria. Because we should, and because we can.

In countries where malaria is common, the disease is a burden on overstretched health systems and on society at large. Children who are sick cannot go to school, and adults who are sick—or caring for sick children—cannot work or contribute to their communities.

Ending malaria will save lives and free up resources that can be invested in reducing poverty and improving quality of life in regions where malaria is endemic—helping people reach their full potential and go far.

“Until the day we end malaria, we won’t stop fighting ... not until it’s defeated.”

—Hannatou Abdou, a community health worker in Niger

The Need

Mortality rates from malaria have dropped by 60% since 2000, saving 7.6 million lives. This achievement is considered one of the most inspiring global health stories of our time. Since 2004, CRS has worked with the global community to fight malaria around the world, but progress and funding have stalled, and COVID-19 threatens the gains we have made.

New strategies are needed to meet global targets for eliminating malaria. There is no one single solution to ending this disease—a comprehensive approach is critical to increasing access to preventive measures and lifesaving treatments. By integrating malaria activities into other programming, we can propel our efforts to save lives and end malaria for good. Thanks to successful global campaigns, the world is on the cusp of eradicating polio. Now it is time to defeat malaria.

The Opportunity

CRS is a recognized leader in the fight against malaria. Focused mainly on pregnant women and children under age 5, our programming helps 72 million people in 12 countries. Our work to combat malaria is part of our Gospel mission to serve the world’s most vulnerable people and to ensure that all people live in dignity—eradicating malaria is an integral part of our commitment to end extreme poverty.



Campaign support will help integrate malaria activities into other programming to expand our impact and save lives. Photo by Sam Phelps/CRS

CRS goes where others don't—to remote communities with little or no access to hospitals, clinics or even doctors. We have extensive expertise in low-cost, effective prevention strategies—like distributing insecticide-treated bed nets and antimalarial medication—as well as in diagnosis and treatment, case management, and national, regional and international advocacy. With our vast network of partners, we work closely with communities to ensure that local governments have the capacity to deliver services and improve health for years to come.

Potential for impact can be seen in countries like The Gambia, which has already shown a dramatic drop in malaria prevalence to 0.1% since our work began there in 2017. In fiscal year 2020, an estimated 1.8 million malaria cases were averted and 11,000 lives saved among children under age 5 as a result of CRS' distribution of 33 million insecticide treated bed nets and provision of preventive treatment to 12 million children.

Through our Vision 2030 strategy, CRS is ready to build on this experience and integrate malaria activities with other programming to expand our impact, save more lives and accelerate the end of malaria. As a multisectoral agency, we are uniquely positioned to incorporate malaria into diverse programming, including emergency response, agriculture and livelihoods, water, sanitation and hygiene, health and social services, education, and justice and peacebuilding.

The Impact

CRS will scale the size and location of these approaches and collaborate with other sectors, including education and agriculture programs. We have established three initial projects to test this integrated model:

- **Nutrition in Madagascar:** CRS will improve the health and well-being of Malagasies who are struggling with malnutrition, which makes them more vulnerable to malaria.
- **Water, sanitation and hygiene and urban housing in Sierra Leone:** Activities will include incorporating mosquito proof elements into new homes and reducing malaria breeding sites in the most vulnerable areas of Freetown.
- **Emergency response in Burkina Faso:** We will distribute bed nets and other malaria commodities as part of our comprehensive programming to meet the needs of people displaced by conflict.

To help ensure our approach is sustainable and meets participant needs, we will engage with community members and leaders to design programming. CRS will use studies and trials to demonstrate impact and will help develop global and national policies and procedures for an integrated approach to ending malaria.

The Child of Every Mother

Hannatou Abdou is a community health worker in Niger. A mother of four, her personal mission is to protect the children in her community from malaria. After she received training in malaria intervention, Hannatou began distributing low-cost preventive medication to children under age 5 prior to the rainy season when malaria transmission surges. Since she began her work, she's seen a dramatic decrease in the number of malaria cases.

"It is said you should love another person's child as you love your own," she says. "This is what drives me in the war against malaria, because the child of one mother is the child of every mother."

The Legacy

Defeating malaria is possible and we know what needs to be done. Through a comprehensive approach, we can end this deadly disease in our lifetimes and help communities thrive. **It's what we should do. And we can do it.**

Learn More
about our vision
for ending malaria
crs.org/go-far-malaria



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Go FAR: The Campaign for Catholic Relief Services is seeking \$350 million over five years in support of the CRS Vision 2030 Strategy.

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