



Malaria in the Americas

Key facts

- Some 25 million people in the Americas live in areas at high or moderate risk for malaria.
- In 2010, the Americas reported 678,164 confirmed malaria cases and 133 malaria deaths.
- These figures represent a 43 percent decline in cases and a 65 percent decline in deaths since 2000.
- Malaria incidence in the Americas declined in 18 of 21 endemic countries between 2000 and 2010.
- Between 2000 and 2010, cases declined over 75 percent in 10 countries, 50-75 percent in five countries, and less than 50 percent in three countries.
- In three countries—the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Venezuela—malaria cases increased between 2000 and 2010.
- Since 2005, the trend in cases has been downward in all endemic countries of the Americas except Haiti.
- Non-endemic countries in the Americas report an average of 1,800 malaria cases (imported or introduced) per year. Most are reported by the United States (1,414) and Canada (385).
- Currently, four countries are in a pre-elimination phase (Argentina, El Salvador, Mexico and Paraguay); the other endemic countries are in control phase.

Key PAHO actions

In approving the Strategy and Plan of Action for Malaria 2011-2015 at PAHO's 51st Directing Council meeting, countries committed to achieve the following targets by 2015:

- Reduce malaria morbidity by a further 75 percent
- Reduce malaria-related deaths by a further 25 percent
- 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 endemicity 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, operations research, and country-level capacity-building*

