Malaria is no longer leading cause of death among children in sub-Saharan Africa

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21 August 2016, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia – Today, all forty-seven WHO Member States in the African Region adopted unanimously a new malaria framework for Africa. This framework aims to guide African countries on how to implement the Global Technical Strategy for malaria in the Region. It proposes specific priority interventions and actions to be implemented by Member States to reach "an African Region free of malaria".

We have made substantial progress in controlling malaria within our Region. Since 2000, malaria death rates have plunged by 66%, translating into 6.2 million lives saved, the vast majority of them being children,

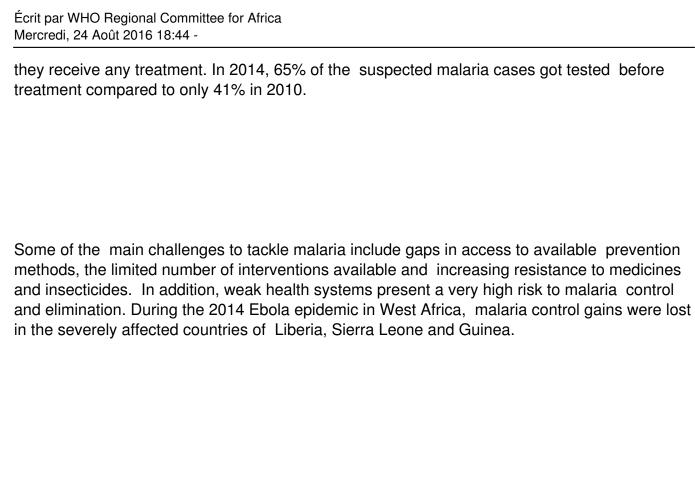
Between 2000 and 2015, the number of malaria cases and deaths within the African Region declined by 42% and 66%, respectively. However, despite the significant progress made, malaria continues to be a major health and development problem in the Region. Globally, the African Region still bears the biggest malaria burden with approximately 190 million cases (89% of the global total) and 400 000 deaths (91% of the global total) in 2015 alone. In addition, over 800 million people in the African Region are still at risk of malaria. In line with the Sustainable Development Goals, WHO reassures a firm commitment to end the epidemic by 2030.

[&]quot;Malaria is no longer the leading cause of death among children in sub-Saharan Africa," says Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa. "

[&]quot; Dr Moeti continues.

[&]quot;In 2015, two in three households in Africa did have their own insecticide-treated mosquito net, compared to only 2% back in 2000," says the Regional Director. "More and more children get to sleep under a net, and we need to continue to invest in changing people's behaviours," she added. In addition, more and more people with suspected malaria do get tested before

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