

# mobilizing against malaria

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**Partnerships and accountability can break the chain of disease.**

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The world is mobilizing against malaria, a mosquito-borne parasitic illness which kills more than 1 million people a year, mostly children and pregnant women in Africa. African governments and numerous private and public organizations are devoting unprecedented resources and attention to combating the disease, which also stunts economic development.

But money and tools are not enough. Malaria persists largely because fighting it requires coordinated action on an unprecedented scale. The disease is spread from mosquitoes to humans — and back again. Breaking this chain of transmission means focusing not just on individuals, but on entire communities and populations.

The people of Angola's Bie Province are doing just that. With the help of Africare, a U.S.-based non-profit group supported by ExxonMobil, they rebuilt a health center destroyed during Angola's civil war. It now serves nearly 14,000 people in 18 villages. At this center, local workers are trained to diagnose and treat malaria, and to actively promote the use of bed nets, a simple but effective prevention tool. The result: an 80 percent drop in malaria cases in just three years.

To replicate this success, it is imperative that governments and donors hold each other

accountable for action and results. The foundation of this commitment must be a common system of measuring and reporting results that reflects on-the-ground effectiveness. If you don't measure it, you can't manage it.

To this end, the World Bank has proposed a "Malaria Scorecard" that tracks key malaria metrics in 20 African nations. By showing the correlation between resources spent and results achieved, this scorecard will be a powerful tool in the fight against malaria.

April 25<sup>th</sup> is Africa Malaria Day, commemorating a commitment in 2000 by African nations to work together to defeat the disease. Since then, ExxonMobil has contributed nearly \$100 million to African community projects and is committing an additional \$10 million this year to fight against malaria. In recognition of today's anniversary, we are also supporting distribution of bed nets in each of our key Africa partner countries.

Success in stopping malaria can breed success in other areas, such as reducing poverty, by demonstrating the power of local organization and effective management. Malaria is a challenge — and in overcoming it together, we can learn important lessons that may help us overcome other challenges, too.

*For more information, please visit [www.rollbackmalaria.org/amd2007](http://www.rollbackmalaria.org/amd2007) and [www.exxonmobil.com/malaria](http://www.exxonmobil.com/malaria).*



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