



Swiss Malaria Group media release on World Malaria Day, 25 April 2023

Putting an end to malaria through innovation and investment

Although malaria could be prevented and treated, global investment in the fight against the disease is declining. Switzerland has a pioneering role to play in the field of innovations to combat malaria. The country should also assume this role in financial terms. World Malaria Day is therefore a reminder that the goal of a malaria-free world must remain on the political agenda.



Switzerland plays an important role in the fight against malaria. In this hospital in Mozambique, Swiss actors are involved in a research programme on malaria treatment (Photo: Martin Leschhorn)

Malaria kills. More than half of the world's population is still at risk of dying from the bite of a mosquito. [In 2021 alone, there were 247 million cases of malaria worldwide. Over 600,000 people died from the disease.](#) Particularly tragic: most of the deaths involved children under the age of five.

To put an end to this madness, this year's World Malaria Day on 25 April 2023, under the motto "[Investment, Innovation, Implementation,](#)" aims to ensure that malaria remains firmly on the political agenda. After all, the disease could easily be stopped with preventive measures and treated with medication. In addition to innovations, political will and corresponding financial investments are important for this.

Switzerland is a hub of innovation in the fight against malaria

Switzerland is a pioneer in innovation: for decades, actors in Switzerland have contributed fundamentally to the development and distribution of drugs, vaccines, diagnostics, bed nets and insecticides. With a unique constellation of actors, including international organisations, high-level academic institutions, the pharmaceutical industry, product development partnerships and a strong civil society, Switzerland is an innovation powerhouse in the fight against malaria and other diseases.

Success stories

Through a variety of innovations, Switzerland has helped prevent more than 11 million people from dying from malaria over the last 20 years. This is a great success in improving global health and shows that a world without malaria would be possible. Thanks to the commitment of Switzerland and the international community, more and more countries are being certified as malaria-free - most recently [China, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan](#).

More funding is needed

Despite these successes, there is now [an annual funding gap of around US\\$ 3.8 billion](#) to continue successfully fighting malaria. “The gap between global investment and the resources needed increases dramatically every year,” says Christian Lengeler, President of the Swiss Malaria Group and malaria expert at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH). “This is also a challenge for Switzerland: As one of the richest countries in the world, we should show more political will and make appropriate investments to banish malaria to the annals of history once and for all.”

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About the Swiss Malaria Group

The Swiss Malaria Group brings together research institutions, public institutions, private industry and civil society to successfully fight malaria. The group's shared goal is to maintain and strengthen Switzerland's commitment to the fight against malaria.

More information available at: www.swissmalariagroup.ch

Member organisations: <https://www.swissmalariagroup.ch/en/about-us/members/>