



World Malaria Report 2020: WHO

Why in News

Recently, the [World Health Organisation](#) (WHO) has released the **World Malaria Report (WMR) 2020**.

- The report provides a **comprehensive update on global and regional malaria data** and trends including prevention, diagnosis, treatment, elimination and surveillance.
- It indicates that **India has made considerable progress in reducing its malaria burden**.

Key Points

▪ Global Analysis:

- Malaria cases **globally numbered about 229 million**, an annual estimate that has remained virtually **unchanged over the last four years**.
 - In **2019**, it claimed about 4,09,000 lives, compared to 4,11,000 in 2018.
- The report noted that the **11 highest-burden countries** viz. Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, **India**, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda and Tanzania, account for **70% of the global estimated case burden and 71% of global estimated deaths** from malaria.
- Countries in **South-East Asia made particularly strong progress**, with **reductions in cases and deaths** of 73% and 74%, respectively.

▪ Indian Analysis:

- India is the **only high endemic country** which has **reported a decline of 17.6%** in 2019 as compared to 2018.
- The **Annual Parasite Incidence** (API, the number of new infections per year per 1000 population) reduced by 18.4% in 2019 as compared to 2018.
 - India has sustained API less than one since the year 2012.
- India has also **contributed to the largest drop in cases region-wide**, from approximately 20 million to about 6 million.
 - The percentage **drop in the malaria cases was 71.8%** and **deaths were 73.9%** between **2000 to 2019**.
- India achieved a **reduction of 83.34% in malaria morbidity** and **92% in malaria mortality** between the year 2000 and 2019, thereby achieving **Goal 6 of the Millennium Development Goals**.
 - MDG 6 aimed to **combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**, which have a direct and indirect impact on rural development, agricultural productivity and food and nutrition security.
 - The **Sustainable Development Goals** have replaced the MDGs.
- States of **Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Meghalaya** and **Madhya Pradesh (high endemic states)** disproportionately accounted for nearly **45.47% of malaria cases** in

2019.

- **63.64% of malaria deaths** were also reported from these states.
- The figures and trends between the last two decades clearly show the **drastic decline in malaria**, hence the **malaria elimination target of 2030 looks achievable**.
- **Initiatives to Curb Malaria:**
 - **In India, malaria elimination efforts were initiated in 2015** and were intensified after the launch of the **National Framework for Malaria Elimination (NFME)** in **2016** by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
 - NFME is in line with **WHO's Global Technical Strategy for Malaria, 2016-2030**, which guides the **WHO Global Malaria Programme (GMP)**, responsible for coordinating WHO's global efforts to control and eliminate malaria.
 - The **National Strategic Plan for Malaria Elimination (2017-22)** was launched in **July 2017** which laid down strategies for the following five years.
 - It gives year wise elimination targets in various parts of the country depending upon the endemicity of malaria.
 - Implementation of **High Burden to High Impact (HBHI) initiative** was started in **four states** (West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh) in **July 2019**.
 - In 2018, the WHO and the RBM Partnership initiated the HBHI initiative in **11 high malaria burden countries**, including **India** to end malaria.
 - It has continued to make impressive gains in India, with **18% reductions in cases** and **20% reductions in death**, over the last 2 years.
 - Due to the efforts made by the Government of India in the **provision of microscopes, rapid diagnostics Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs)** to high burden areas has led to a reduction in endemicity in these otherwise very high endemic states.
 - LLINs are **nets treated** in the factory with an insecticide **incorporated into the net fabric which makes the insecticide last at least 20 washes** in standard laboratory testing and **three years of recommended use** under field conditions.
 - Use of LLINs has been accepted by the community at large and has been one of the main contributors to the drastic malaria decline in the country.

[Source: PIB](#)

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