Hopes still high that killer can be beaten

The death rate is falling, but chances of eradication are tempered by realities of cost and science, writes Andrew Jack

From unpacking Nigeria’s爱丁堡 Royal Children's staff and volunteers across Africa are racing to deliver insecticide-impregnated nets if they do not beat the coming core season. Flooding will block transport routes just as malaria cases and child mortality rise.

In the fight against one of the world’s worst infections the stakes are high. Eliminating malaria from its current distribution—busting mosquito-breeding sites to place—in need has not been easy, but there has been significant progress in recent months. There has been an incredible year,” said Andrew Jack, director of the Inside Business Jordan Centre for the Global Impact of Business.

This year has seen surges and claims many lives. Insecticide-impregnated nets and bednets have been shown to work. In fact, the annual number of malaria deaths fell by about 30% from 2000 to 2010, according to the World Health Organization.

But it is an incredible year,” said Andrew Jack, director of the Inside Business Jordan Centre for the Global Impact of Business.

The World Health Organization said that the year will be remembered for the successful elimination of malaria in three countries: Malawi, Mozambique and Senegal. Each of these countries has faced unique challenges in eliminating malaria, and the success of their efforts is a testament to the power of coordinated global action.

The success of these countries was due in part to the support of global organizations and institutions, such as the WHO, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). These organizations and others supported these countries with funding, technical assistance, and strategic guidance.

In addition to the successful elimination of malaria in these three countries, the year saw significant advances in vaccine development and the implementation of community-based malaria control programs. The United States donated $25 million to support the development of a new malaria vaccine, and international collaboration on the development of new drugs and treatments for malaria continued.

However, despite these successes, there is still much work to be done to eliminate malaria globally. The United Nations has set the ambitious goal of eliminating malaria from all countries by 2030. Achieving this goal will require sustained commitment and investment in malaria control and elimination programs.

In this year’s World Malaria Day, we should celebrate the successes of the last year and recommit to the goal of elimination. We must remember that malaria is preventable and treatable, and that with continued effort, we can achieve global malaria elimination.
**Combating Malaria**

**Vaccines**
Partnerships boost success hopes

The world's first experimental clinic trial of a malaria vaccine just completed enrolment, within GlaxoSmithKline (GSK). The vaccine, known as MVI, is being evaluated by the Malaria Vaccines Initiative (MVI), which was set up by GSK and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 2006.

The trial, which involves 14,000 children in seven African countries, was designed to assess the efficacy of a new malaria vaccine, RTS,S. The vaccine is based on a fragment of the Plasmodium falciparum circumsporozoite protein, which is the protein that the parasite uses to infect the liver. The vaccine was first tested in 1989 and has been undergoing clinical trials ever since.

The trial was made possible through a partnership between GSK, the Gates Foundation, and the World Health Organization (WHO). The partnership is expected to result in the production of an affordable malaria vaccine by 2015.

**Diagnostics**

Charm Gresser says potential will only be fulfilled by better understanding and habit patients' expectations change

When a child develops a fever, doctors and health workers have a lot of questions to ask, but the most important one might be: "What is the cause of this fever?"

"We want to be precise about 'drug resistance','” says Charm Gresser, who is based in Nairobi. "But the practice of treatment based on clinical symptoms alone is a dangerous one that is spreading widely in Africa."

"There are so many people who do not use RDTs – tests that can detect malaria without the need for microscopy – have become widespread."

"They may also worry about overtreatment. So this is an important issue that we need to think about now."

**New medicines**

*Medicine for Tuberculosis*

A drug combination that could effectively treat tuberculosis is closer to becoming a reality. The combination, known as CFB852, was developed by the Global Alliance for Tuberculosis Trials (GATT), a partnership between the World Health Organization (WHO), the WHO's Global Tuberculosis Programme (GTB), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

CFB852 is a new treatment for tuberculosis that has been shown to be effective in clinical trials. The combination consists of two drugs: one that targets the bacteria that cause tuberculosis, and another that boosts the immune system to help fight off the infection.

"We have been very impressed by the results of these trials," says Irene Kimani, a TB expert at the WHO. "CFB852 has been shown to be effective in treating both drug-sensitive and drug-resistant tuberculosis."

"The combination also has a high cure rate, which is a major improvement over the current standard treatment of six months of drug therapy."

**Better access**

Everyone has the right to access high-quality health care. But in many parts of the world, access to essential medicines is limited by high prices, poor infrastructure, and lack of trained personnel.

"We need to improve access to essential medicines," says Dr. Jane Cunningham, technical director at the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). "But we also need to make sure that these medicines are affordable."
Rising resistance worries in Cambodia

Drug efficacy

The problem is also spreading to the Thai-Burma border, a problem hot topic, now.

Tim Johnston

In the recent years there have been reports of increased resistance to antimalarial drugs, particularly in Asia. "Rougese resistance" is also becoming a problem in South America, where outbreaks have been linked to the widespread use of antimalarial drugs.

One of the last refuges of antimalarial drugs is the Plasmodium falciparum, the species responsible for the most severe form of malaria. Resistance to antimalarial drugs is becoming a serious problem in many parts of the world, and the situation is likely to become even more difficult as the parasites continue to evolve.

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Given the limited information in what is happening at the moment, it is difficult to say for sure how widespread the resistance is. However, it is clear that we need to rediscovers ways to fight the parasites, and that the development of new antimalarial drugs is essential.

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Senegal
Community-based volunteers are helping the fight, says Andrew Jack

Combating Malaria

Reliable diagnoses help reduce incidence

**Senegal**

Aids, Tuberculosis and infections – a heavy toll on a country

Mbi Seck demonstrates a range of antimalarial products

**Seck.**

Not so many,” says Mr Seck.

The Senegalese singer has come a long way since he was pregnant with a baby girl in 2008.

With a new organisation called Pecadom, founded in 2008, he is trying to help reduce malaria.

“We reinforced our capacity, increased staffing and put in place all the recommendations of the WHO,” Seck says.

He has been able to coordinate drug funding from the Global Fund.

“Even if we are rapidly increasing the number of villages treated, many still suffer from malaria due to high costs and low efficacy of treatments,” he adds.

In 2010, Senegal reached its 95 per cent target for the use of bed nets.

**Manson**

Thanks to a global commitment to fighting malaria, Africa’s children are alive today, and a malaria-free future is in our sights. With continued leadership, we can achieve it. But there is more to do – 1,250,000 people will still die of malaria today unless we step up our efforts. Worse, if we let up now the disease will grow stronger and strike harder.

Find out more at malariarefutation.org
Proximity may be the best policy

Bed nets in Africa may help boost economies, writes Sarah Murray

I

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Combating Malaria

Researchers probe creative ways to kill mosquitoes

Insecticides

Oliver Cooper stresses that the rapid evolution of resistance highlights the urgent need for replacement compounds

It is barely too early to campaign on malaria, and yet the war on repeated attacks.

The German, based in Switzerland, Oxitec need to adapt too. The efforts at eradication, THURSDAY chloroquine for tuberculosis patients.

Modern medicines and vaccines are needed to drive the disease towards elimination. Only when transmission levels and parasites that cause malaria, donors and vaccines against the plasmodium mosquito killers.

The rapid evolution of resistance to existing insecticides highlights the urgent need for replacements. New drugs and vaccines against the malarial disease in "vector control", as people in the field call the battle against malaria. The German company, and launched on the drug market in 2004.

Researchers and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine are developing a genetic control of male mosquitoes as for other mosquito killers.

The rapid evolution of resistance to existing insecticides has always been the single largest and most probable agricultural challenge is the malaria parasite itself.

Companies need to adapt too. The commercial-epidemic in bed nets and subsidies.

The third and perhaps largest challenge is the malaria parasites itself that has failed to eradicate, eliminating the bugs. The vector control market is still large and more profitable agricultural market.

Hopes are still high

Continued from Page 1

A second set of challenges relate to the rapid emergence and replacement of drug-resistant strains.

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