



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
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# World Malaria Report 2024 by WHO

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## Context:

The **World Malaria Report 2024**, released by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, provides critical updates on the global and regional trends of malaria, including key findings for India.

## Global Malaria Trends:

- **Malaria Cases:** Globally, malaria cases rose to **263 million** in **2023**, with an incidence of **60.4 per 1000 population at risk**, up from **58.6** in **2022**.
- **WHO African Region:** The **African region** continues to bear the greatest burden, accounting for **94% of global malaria cases**.

## India's Progress:

- **Decline in Malaria Cases:** India has seen a **69% decline** in malaria cases, from **6.4 million** in **2017** to **2 million** in **2023**.
- **Decline in Malaria Deaths:** Malaria-related deaths have dropped by **68%**, from **11,100** in **2017** to **3,500** in **2023**.
- **Milestone in 2024:** In **2024**, India officially **exited the High Burden to High Impact (HBHI)** group, marking a significant achievement in its fight against malaria.

## About Malaria:

- **Cause:** Malaria is a **life-threatening disease** caused by **Plasmodium parasites**, transmitted through the bites of infected **female Anopheles mosquitoes**.
- **Geographical Prevalence:** Predominantly found in **tropical countries**.
- **Symptoms:** Fever, chills, headache, fatigue, and muscle aches.
- **Plasmodium Species:** There are five species of Plasmodium that cause malaria in humans:
  - **P. falciparum** (most deadly)
  - **P. vivax** (common)
  - **P. malariae**, **P. ovale**, and **P. knowlesi**.

## Malaria Vaccines:

- **RTS,S/AS01:** The first malaria vaccine approved by WHO in **2021**.
- **R21/Matrix-M:** The second malaria vaccine, approved by WHO in **2023**.

## WHO and National Initiatives:

- The **WHO Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016-2030**, updated in **2021**, serves as a framework for malaria-endemic countries.
- India's **National Strategic Plan for Malaria Elimination 2023-2027** aims to reduce malaria transmission with a focus on elimination.

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### Factors Increasing Vulnerability to Malaria:

- **Biological Vulnerability:** Age, immune status, genetic factors, and sex characteristics affect susceptibility.
- **Environmental Factors:** Changes in **climate** and **land use** increase malaria exposure.
- **Social and Economic Factors:** Vulnerability increases due to **socioeconomic status, gender inequalities, ethnicity, and migration.**
- **Structural Challenges:** Issues like **conflict, disruption of healthcare access, and migration** also heighten malaria risks.

While the global malaria burden remains a serious challenge, significant progress has been made in India, with reduced cases and deaths, marking a notable milestone in the fight against malaria. Continued efforts, including the use of vaccines and strategic plans, are essential to eliminate malaria in endemic regions.