

The Pretoria Statement on Urban Malaria

- Urban malaria in sub-Saharan Africa is a major health problem and is likely to increase in importance, unless addressed.

A large and increasing proportion of the African population live in urban areas, where many vulnerable individuals are at significant risk of malaria.

Strategies used to control malaria in rural areas cannot be directly transferred to urban settings, as they are likely to result in a significant waste of resources, mainly through misdiagnosis and inappropriate treatment.

- Protection of vulnerable people from the effects of urban malaria is essential to preserve their livelihoods, build conditions for economic growth and to avoid diversion of scarce resources away from rural areas.
- Although occurring in heterogeneous and rapidly changing environments that range from high-density neighbourhoods to peri-urban agricultural zones, urban malaria is amenable to cost-effective prevention and control by tailoring existing tools for the diagnosis and treatment of infection, and for vector control.
- The urban environment presents unique opportunities for the reduction of the malaria burden via community stakeholder participation, harnessing existing health planning and governance structures, and by involving the substantial private sector.
- There are important omissions in our knowledge of malaria in the urban context, including:

Cost-benefit analyses of accurate diagnosis and targeted drug delivery.

Cost-effectiveness of larval control and environmental management for vector control.

Appropriate, practical and cost-effective tools for monitoring malaria in an urban context.

The effect of urban-specific social structures and transmission patterns on disease burden and strategies for control.

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Further information may be obtained from:

www.liv.ac.uk/lstm/majorprogs/malaria/outputs.htm

www.imwi.cgiar.org/sima/index.asp