

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

INTRODUCTION TO THE 2010 WORLD MALARIA REPORT

The 2010 World Malaria Report documents international success in fighting a disease that takes its heaviest toll on poor and vulnerable populations. As such, it contains valuable lessons on how the international community can achieve even greater advances against malaria and make inroads against other global threats.

Success in the fight against malaria comes largely as a result of a new approach involving a broad range of partners coming together in common cause. Sustained action and vigilance remain critical to winning the battle against a tenacious, ever-changing foe, which kills nearly 800,000 people each year.

Two years ago, I called for universal coverage of malaria-control interventions by the end of 2010, in order to bring an end to malaria deaths by 2015. The response was impressive. Enough insecticide-treated mosquito nets have been delivered to Sub-Saharan Africa to protect nearly 580 million people, and more than 75 million have received protection from indoor residual spraying. An additional 54 million nets are slated for delivery in the coming months, bringing the goal of universal coverage within reach.

There have also been compelling advances in places where the disease is endemic. Eleven African countries, backed by international partners, have cut malaria cases and deaths by half, and hundreds of thousands of lives have been saved across the continent. We are also seeing a correlation in certain instances between heightened malaria control and decreases in child mortality from all causes, showing yet again that malaria control is integral to reaching the Millennium Development Goals.

The *World Malaria Report 2010* shows what is possible when we join forces and embrace the mission of saving lives. If we heed the lessons highlighted in this report, we can achieve our goal of ending malaria deaths by the year 2015, accelerate progress toward the MDGs and usher in a better future for all.