The Against Malaria Foundation distributes long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets to prevent malaria infection in high risk regions of 35 countries in Africa, Asia and South America.

What's the need?

- Malaria kills half a million people every year and 400 million fall ill every year.
- 61% of these deaths are children aged under 5 (260,000), and malaria is the world’s single largest killer of pregnant women.
- In 2017 there were an estimated 219 million cases of the disease compared to 217 million the year before, and an estimated \textit{435,000 deaths from} malaria globally, compared with 451,000 estimated deaths in 2016, and 607,000 in 2010.
- \textbf{Nearly 80% of global malaria deaths} in 2017 were concentrated in 17 countries in the WHO African Region and India; seven of these countries accounted for 53% of all global malaria deaths: Nigeria (19%), Democratic Republic of the Congo (11%), Burkina Faso (6%), United Republic of Tanzania (5%), Sierra Leone (4%), Niger (4%) and India (4%).

What they do (program details)

- AMF receives and reviews proposals from charities that need bed nets. When a proposal is approved, AMF purchases long-lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLINs) and works with partners who implement distributions and ensure use in areas with endemic malaria.
- After distribution, AMF requires household surveys to be conducted every 6 months for 3 years to understand the condition and usage of the nets that have been distributed.
- AMF publishes detailed pre-distribution and post-distribution reports on its website to which the public has full access.
- 100% of donation received by AMF is used to purchase nets. The cost of nets alone is $2.00 each; the full cost including delivery is estimated at $4.53, or $4.22 excluding in-kind contributions from governments.

Evidence of impact of intervention

- Malaria nets are proven to be effective - saving 5.6 lives each year for every 1000 children protected with ITNs.
- General data on net distributions shows usage rates between 60-80%.
  - In a small-scale study, usage rates were found to be 70% for spot visits.
Evidence of impact of charity

- AMF’s contributions accounted for 14.2 million nets in 2015-2017; and it has distributed approximately 53 million nets in total by February 2019.
- AMF also closely tracks % of nets hung, used correctly, in working condition at 6-month intervals for 3 years following distribution
- AMF’s process for publishing distribution information and metrics is highly transparent:
  - AMF makes public each distribution, number of nets, geography, distribution status and donor
  - AMF publishes photos, proposal, and post-distribution report for almost all distributions; video for most; and post-distribution surveys (AMF reports 95% compliance with reporting process)
  - Facilitate decisional transparency through articulation of distribution assessment process and pipeline transparency through stage-level status of proposed distributions

Plans for 2019

- According to Givewell, as of August 2018 AMF is expected to sign agreements for distributions totalling $48 million and have discussions about distributions that would cost an additional $65 million. These funds would entirely fund distributions in the DRC, Zambia, Togo, and Uganda as well as other countries.
- AMF has signed an agreement with the DRC Ministry of Health to fund 11.8 million nets for distribution from April to December 2019. This represents 40% of DRC’s long-lasting insecticide treated net (LLIN) need for the 2019 portion of their three-year rolling universal coverage campaign.

Remaining uncertainties

- Potential insecticide resistance
  - Reports have shown that mosquitoes in certain areas have developed some resistance to the insecticide used in standard nets distributed and that such resistance is growing stronger over time. However, GiveWell notes that there are no high-quality studies on its impact on the nets’ effectiveness and experts generally agree that insecticide treatment nets remain a highly cost-effective intervention after the discount.
  - AMF has also started distributing a new kind of nets - PBO nets - in areas with insecticide resistance. On top of the standard pyrethroid insecticide, PBO nets incorporate piperonyl butoxide, which is a synergist that inhibits the metabolic enzymes that grants immunity in mosquitoes. PBO nets were recommended by WHO to combat insecticide resistance in 2017 and a recent study in 2018 shows it generates a 32% reduction in malaria prevalence comparing to standard nets.
  - AMF is currently conducting a study on the topic to learn more and is working with partners to develop new kinds of insecticide treated nets (ITNs).
Sources and more information

- GiveWell review: [www.givewell.org/international/top-charities/AMF](http://www.givewell.org/international/top-charities/AMF)
- Giving What We Can review: [www.givingwhatwecan.org/top-charities/against-malaria-foundation](http://www.givingwhatwecan.org/top-charities/against-malaria-foundation)
- Against Malaria Foundation website: [www.againstmalaria.com](http://www.againstmalaria.com)
- WHO’s World Malaria Report 2018: [https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/275867/9789241565653-eng.pdf?ua=1&fbclid=IwAR1NLGW5ahQVLTMuLehb_kemxz9SdY67KnDpNzkjDdSVRBVoRUKFCInIZxE](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/275867/9789241565653-eng.pdf?ua=1&fbclid=IwAR1NLGW5ahQVLTMuLehb_kemxz9SdY67KnDpNzkjDdSVRBVoRUKFCInIZxE)