

# *Malaria Prophylaxis Initiative (MPI-US)*

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## HIV/AIDS AND MALARIA

Early on in the twenty first century, Africa faces grave problems that are unique in their intensity and extensiveness.

In terms of disease, malaria and HIV/AIDS clearly top the list. The spread of these two diseases appears to be out-of-control in Sub-Sahara Africa and, unfortunately, there is a malevolent tie-in between them.

According to the African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF) website newsletter, May 10, 2007, an *opportunistic infection process* between HIV/AIDS and malaria renders HIV/AIDS-infected persons more prone to severe malaria and malaria-infected persons more vulnerable to HIV infection, yielding a potentially large volume of co-infected persons. This has its unfortunate parallel in the large number of co-infected HIV/HCV (Hepatitis C virus) sufferers. Equally frustrating, both the HIV and malaria microbes are fast-reproducing which gives them an uncanny ability to develop resistance to medications.

For more than two years, *MPI* has been working with a new technology for combating malaria and other vector-borne diseases, field testing it in West Africa and acquiring governmental approvals in several nations. Based on these experiences, we are proposing the inclusion of this practical and effective approach in the battle against the number one killer of children and adults in Sub-Sahara Africa and other mosquito-endemic regions. Moreover, the mutual disease susceptibility existing between malaria and HIV/AIDS suggests that malaria prophylaxis could be an important component of programs for prevention, control and amelioration of HIV/AIDS.

Within the same broad category of vectors that transmit malaria are the arthropods that transport dengue fever (and consequent hemorrhagic fever), lymphatic filariasis and river blindness. The same methodology that has been employed against the malaria-bearing vectors may also be utilized against the vectors that transmit these diseases.

With this in mind, please take a careful look at our initiative for combating these sources of human misery.

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