

## Provide a mosquito net, save a life from Malaria



### Summary

Join us in providing insecticide-treated mosquito nets to protect Sierra Leoneans, especially young children, from mosquito bites. Malaria is caused by parasites that are transmitted through the bites of infected mosquitoes. Long-lasting insecticidal nets are a proven and effective way of reducing exposure to mosquitoes at night-time, when people are at greatest risk. Bed nets form a protective barrier around people sleeping under them. However, bed nets treated with an insecticide are much more protective than untreated nets. The treated mosquito net forms a protective barrier around people sleeping under them. The insecticide not only kills the mosquitoes, which carry the malaria parasite, and other insects, it also repels mosquitoes, reducing the number that enter the house and attempt to feed on people inside. With (Insecticide-treated nets (ITNs), the number of mosquitoes, as well as their length of life, is reduced, which is why the density of nets in a community is important. Sierra Leone is one of the most affected countries in Africa due to a combination of factors:

- A very efficient mosquito (*Anopheles gambiae* complex) is responsible for high transmission.
- The predominant parasite species is *Plasmodium falciparum*, which is the species that is most likely to cause severe malaria and death.
- Local weather conditions often allow transmission to occur year round.

- Scarce resources and socio-economic instability have hindered efficient malaria control activities.

Malaria, the leading cause of death among children in Africa, could be eliminated if three-fourths of the population in used insecticide-treated bed nets, according to a new study from the National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis (NIMBioS).

### **Challenge**

From the half a million people who die annually from malaria worldwide, unfortunately children younger than five years old are the main victims. Less than 10% of children sleep under protective nets in Sierra Leone, where malaria is still a frequent and killer disease. Malaria causes unnecessary sickness, hospitalization and deaths which could easily be prevented. Productivity is also affected when people fall sick and become incapacitated. This avoidable sickness drains meager family finances. This sickness deprives countries of their productive population who would be very active in the workforce. Between 2008 and 2010, a total of 294 million nets were distributed in sub-Saharan Africa. Funding for long-lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLINs) gradually increased from 2004 when 5.6 million nets were delivered, to 2010, when 145 million nets were delivered. However, funding for nets, and other malaria prevention and control interventions, is likely to plateau or even decline in the next few years due to the current economic situation. This is why we are challenged to help keep the momentum, as slowing down will lead to a resurgence of deaths from malaria.

### **Solution**

The long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets provide an effective barrier and protection from mosquito bites. They are a form of personal protection that has been shown to reduce malaria illness, severe disease, and death due to malaria in endemic regions. In community-wide trials in several African settings, ITNs have been shown to reduce the death of children under 5 years from all causes by about 20%. This significantly lowers the risk of getting malaria. This risk is further reduced by provided training on the importance of their use. As a result of these interventions, families are healthier and live longer.

### **Long-Term Impact**

Deaths caused by malaria are declining, lives are being saved and people are living longer. Families are also able to avoid spending meager resources on malaria medication and hospitalization. One way to maintain net coverage is to increase the lifespan of LLINs. A recent study estimated that up to \$3.8 billion could be saved over 10 years by increasing the lifespan of nets from 3 years to 5 years. In addition, the nets take the place of dangerous chemicals that must be applied directly to skin and clothing to repel the insects. Some of these chemicals can make humans also feel uncomfortable. Also, a reduction in deaths by malaria will make it

possible for more people, who would hitherto have died, to take part in growing their economy. Children will also live longer to become productive adults.



## Resources

<http://developafrica.org/preserving-lives-by-providing-mosquito-nets-and-anti-malaria-medication>

[UNICEF Video - World Malaria Day](#)

[World Health Organization - Fact File on Malaria](#)

[The Deadliest Animal in the World](#)

[https://www.cdc.gov/malaria/malaria\\_worldwide/reduction/itn.html](https://www.cdc.gov/malaria/malaria_worldwide/reduction/itn.html)

[http://www.who.int/whopes/Long-lasting\\_insecticidal\\_nets\\_November\\_2015.pdf?ua=1](http://www.who.int/whopes/Long-lasting_insecticidal_nets_November_2015.pdf?ua=1)

[http://www.ehow.com/about\\_5379210\\_pros-cons-mosquito-nets.html](http://www.ehow.com/about_5379210_pros-cons-mosquito-nets.html)

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/03/130307161631.htm>

[http://www.unicef.org/health/index\\_malaria.html](http://www.unicef.org/health/index_malaria.html)



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Twitter Page-<http://www.twitter.com/developafrica>

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YouTube - <http://www.youtube.com/developafrica>

*Empowering lives in Africa so that they can better themselves, their communities and their nations*

Develop Africa was established in 2006 and is a 501c3 non-profit organization is working to establish meaningful and sustainable development in Africa. Develop Africa was birthed out of the vision that human resource development is the key to improving nation building capacity in Africa. Develop Africa is involved in a range of programs in Africa supporting education, microfinance and small businesses, job skills / leadership development training etc.

Through training, scholarship, investment and partnerships Develop Africa is helping to develop Africa's people through the promotion of transformational education, resource development, investment training and strategic empowerment. Our premise is based on the notion that in order to change one's personal, national or organizational status there must necessarily be a "change in the thinking and processing pattern of the mind."

We envision an African continent fully developed in terms of its human and resource capacity, free from poverty; ignorance, and civil conflict and where the poorest and most vulnerable people become "leaders" and effectively manage their national resources.

We are involved in the following targeted activities:

- care for orphans

- job skills training
- microfinance / micro-lending and small business training
- scholarships
- books, school and teaching supplies
- basic computer training and computers
- mosquito nets, vitamin supplements, start up tool kits (such as sewing machines), school uniforms, Personal Protective Equipment for health workers etc.

Examples of specific activity: We provide -

- job skills training
- microfinance / micro-lending and small business training
- scholarships
- books, school and teaching supplies
- basic computer training and computers
- mosquito nets, vitamin supplements, start up tool kits (such as sewing machines), school uniforms etc.

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**Sierra Leone- Full Country Profile available at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sierra\\_Leone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sierra_Leone)**

**Sierra Leone** (<sup>ⓘ</sup>/sɪˈɛərə lɪˈoʊni, -lɪˈoʊn/),<sup>[5]</sup> officially the **Republic of Sierra Leone**, is a country in **West Africa**. It is bordered by **Guinea** on the north, **Liberia** in the south-east, and the **Atlantic Ocean** in the south-west. Sierra Leone has a **tropical climate**, with a diverse environment ranging from **savannah** to **rainforests**. Sierra Leone has a total area of 71,740 km<sup>2</sup> (27,699 sq mi)<sup>[6]</sup> and a population of 7,075,641 (based on 2015 national census).<sup>[1]</sup> Sierra Leone is divided into four geographical regions: the **Northern Province**, **Eastern Province**, **Southern Province** and the **Western Area**, which are subdivided into **fourteen**

districts. Freetown is the capital, largest city and its economic and political centre. Bo is the second largest city. The other major cities are Kenema, Makeni, and Koidu Town.

About sixteen ethnic groups inhabit Sierra Leone, each with its own language and customs. The two largest and most influential are the Temne and the Mende people. The Temne are predominantly found in the north of the country, while the Mende are predominant in the south-east. Although English is the official language spoken at schools and government administration, the Krio language is the most widely spoken language across Sierra Leone and is spoken by 97% of the country's population. The Krio language unites all the different ethnic groups in the country, especially in their trade and social interaction with each other.

Sierra Leone is a predominantly Muslim country,<sup>[7][8][9]</sup> though with an influential Christian minority.<sup>[10]</sup> Sierra Leone is regarded as one of the most religiously tolerant nations in the world. Muslims and Christians collaborate and interact with each other peacefully. Religious violence is very rare in the country.

Sierra Leone has relied on mining, especially diamonds, for its economic base. It is also among the largest producers of titanium and bauxite, a major producer of gold, and has one of the world's largest deposits of rutile. Sierra Leone is home to the third-largest natural harbour in the world. Despite exploitation of this natural wealth, 70% of its people live in poverty.<sup>[11]</sup>

Sierra Leone became independent in 1961. Government corruption and mismanagement of the country's natural resources contributed to the Sierra Leone Civil War (1991 to 2002), which for more than a decade devastated the country. This proxy war left more than 50,000 people dead, much of the country's infrastructure destroyed, and over two million people displaced as refugees in neighbouring countries.

More recently, the 2014 Ebola outbreak overburdened the weak healthcare infrastructure, leading to more deaths from medical neglect than Ebola itself. It created a humanitarian crisis situation and a negative spiral of weaker economic growth. The country has an extremely low life expectancy at 57.8 years.<sup>[10]</sup>

Sierra Leone is a member of many international organisations, including the United Nations, the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Mano River Union, the Commonwealth of Nations, the African Development Bank, and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.