

## Magnitude of Malaria Problem in Cambodia

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Malaria continues to be a major public health problem in Cambodia. It is the main obstacles to the country's development. About 1.6 million people out of 12 million total population are at risk of malaria, who are living in villages located within or with the distance of 1 km from the forest. These people can therefore be classified into the following 4 categories; (I) people reside in forested villages, (II) people reside in the villages at 200 m distance from forest, (III) people reside in the villages between 200 to 500 m distance from the forest and (IV) people reside in the villages between 500 to 1,000 m distance from the forest. About half a million people live in the high transmission forest areas defined as the category 1. Factors that contribute to malaria risk include predominance of falciparum malaria, poor health infrastructure especially in the high transmission areas, continuing shortages of appropriate diagnostics and drugs, poor communication and transportation systems, resulting in treatment delays, presence of special risk groups including military personnel, forest and mining workers, predominance of unqualified private medical practitioners and pharmacists who still do not follow national treatment guidelines, abundance of fake drugs on the market and spreading drug resistance in parasites in different pockets of the country. To reduce malaria disease burdens in the high transmission areas, early diagnosis and treatment approach should be improved in public health sector systems, and also through social marketing strategy.

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