Japan's Potential in the Fight Against Malaria
Strengthening Collaboration Between the Global Fund's Eighth Replenishment and Gavi 6.0

Proposal

NGO Reaching Zero-Dose Children

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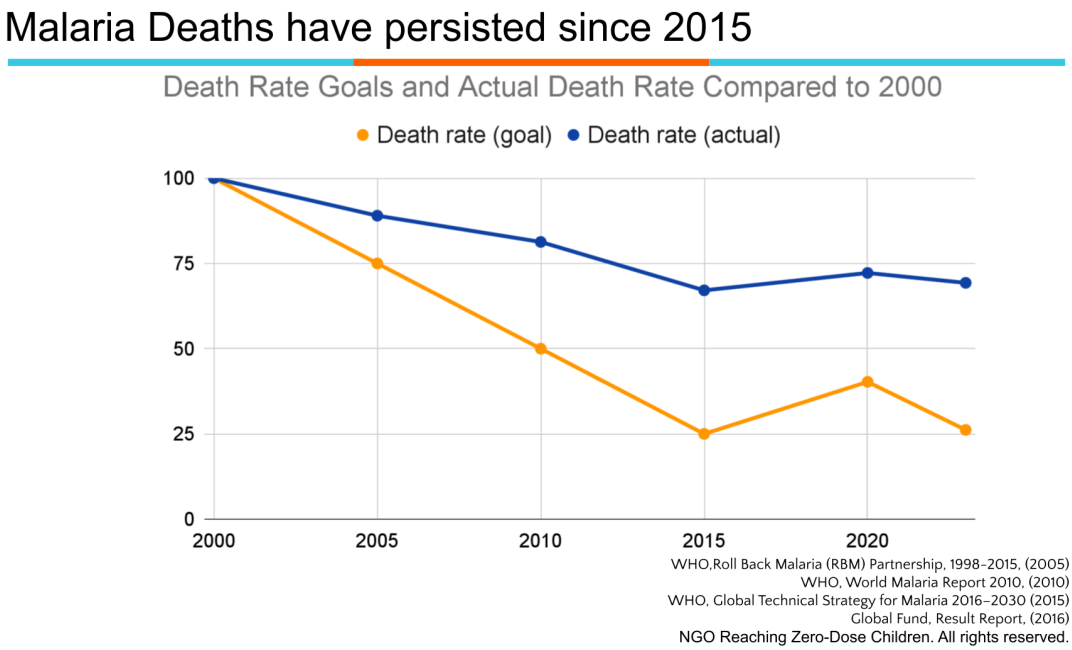
Background

NGO Reaching Zero-Dose Children is working to create a society where all children have access to primary healthcare, including vaccines. In particular, our organization, which has been engaged in advocacy activities for the Gavi Vaccine Alliance, has now turned its attention to malaria, one of the three major infectious diseases, because malaria was mentioned for the first time in the new strategy announced by the Gavi Vaccine Alliance in 2024.
Traditionally, malaria has been one of the three major infectious diseases that the Global Fund has focused on, but due to climate change and multidrug resistance issues, the mortality rate has remained flat since 2015, and the target of "reducing malaria mortality by 90% by 2030 compared to 2015" is significantly behind schedule (Figure 1).

（Figure 1）Death Rate Goals and Actual Death Rates of Malaria Compared to 2000

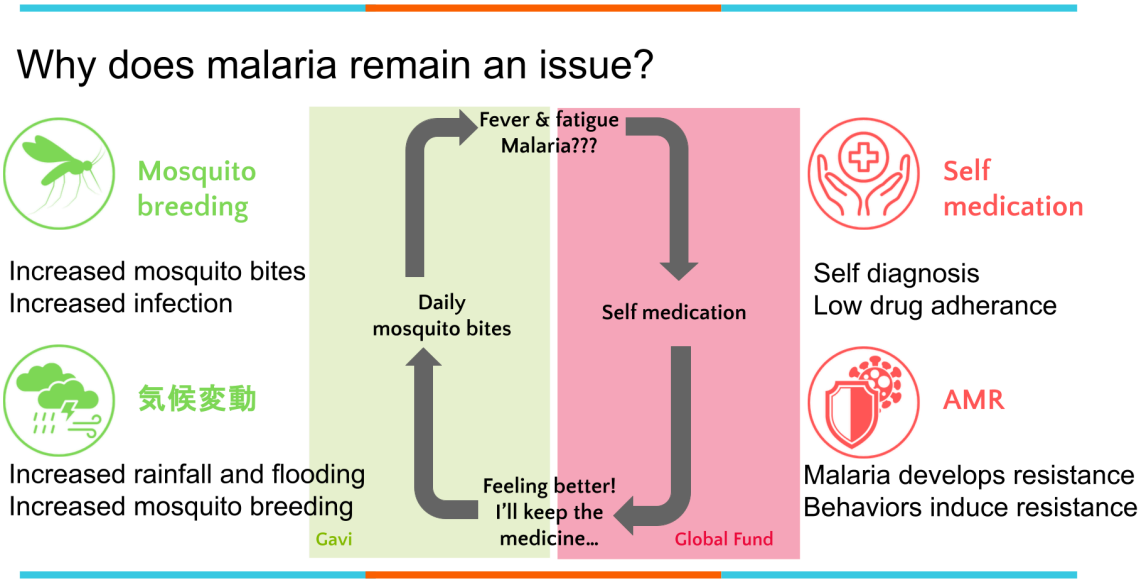


Current Situation

The circumstances that make it difficult to reduce malaria infections and deaths can be examined from the behavioral cycle related to malaria.
① Frequent exposure to mosquito bites
② When experiencing fever or fatigue, not visiting a medical institution but instead self-diagnosing malaria and purchasing and taking antimalarial drugs from a pharmacy
③ When symptoms improve, not finishing the medication but instead saving it or giving it to friends or family

Recent climate change has increased the frequency and intensity of heavy rainfall and flooding, expanding the environment suitable for the reproduction of mosquito larvae . As a result, an increase in malaria infection risk has been confirmed worldwide. This is due to the increased conditions that promote the proliferation of mosquito larvae, such as stagnant water pools after flooding. Malaria is a disease that involves infection with a large number of parasites at once and is inherently prone to drug resistance. Additionally, the widespread practice of self-diagnosis, self-medication, and discontinuation of treatment midway through the course accelerates the progression of drug resistance.
The interplay of these two complex factors, namely climate change and drug resistance, has resulted in a situation where the global malaria mortality rate has not decreased as much as expected. These challenges call for comprehensive measures to prevent the spread of the disease and ensure completion of treatment.

（Figure 2）Behavior Cycle of Malaria and the relationship of climate change and AMR



Global Fund, Investment Case Eighth Replenishment 2025, (2025)

Proposals
Based on the above, NGO Reaching Zero-Dose Children proposes the following three points.

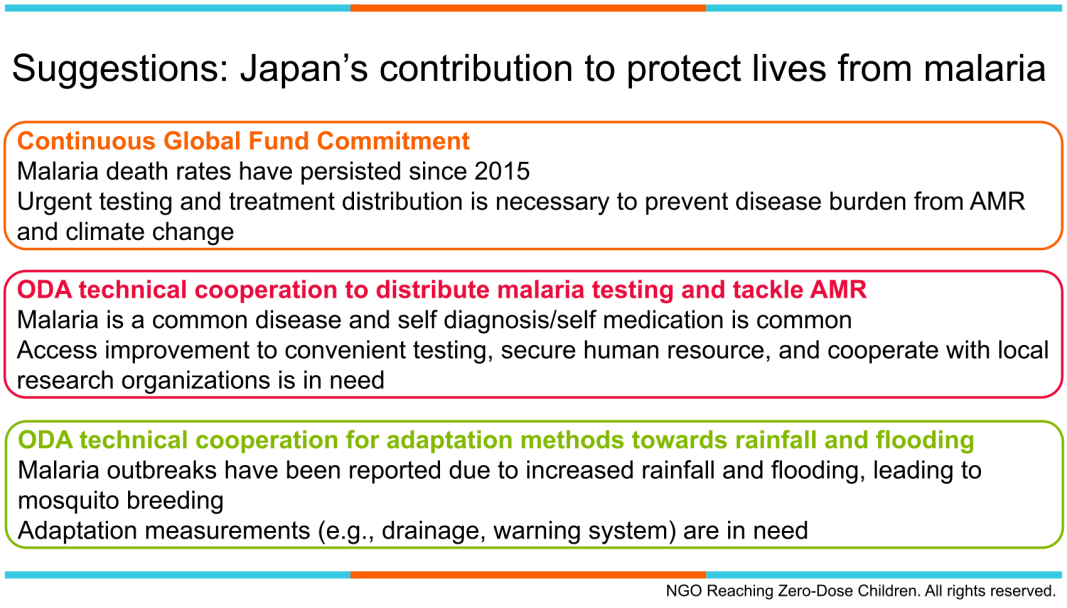
1. Strengthen continued support for the Global Fund
   The Global Fund has made significant contributions to the prevention of infectious diseases such as malaria. However, the malaria mortality rate has remained flat since 2015, demonstrating the difficulty of preventing the spread of malaria and completing treatment. In particular, rapid and accurate diagnosis of malaria is insufficient, and inappropriate medication is promoting drug resistance. Therefore, it is essential to

further promote the development of infrastructure such as medical equipment, human resources, and logistics so that everyone can receive rapid malaria testing anywhere, and to raise awareness and create systems within local communities to ensure that treatment is completed.

2. Expand ODA technical cooperation for the promotion of malaria testing and measures against drug resistance
   Japan has advanced medical technology and testing equipment development capabilities, which can be utilized to contribute to the research and development of highly sensitive and simple testing methods. Japan also has strengths in training personnel to conduct testing in the field, which can be leveraged to support the strengthening of testing systems. Furthermore, by utilizing technology and know-how related to elucidating the mechanisms of drug resistance and developing new drugs, Japan can contribute to the realization of sustainable malaria control measures by suppressing the spread of resistance. This technical cooperation is an important part of Japan's international contributions, and it is necessary to expand support through ODA.

3. Promoting ODA contributions and technical cooperation aimed at disseminating adaptation measures to respond to heavy rainfall and flooding caused by climate change
   With climate change, the frequency of heavy rainfall and flooding is increasing, expanding the breeding environment for mosquito larvae. Therefore, in addition to conventional infectious disease control measures, it is urgent to introduce preventive measures adapted to climate change. Specifically, it is necessary to develop and disseminate technologies that suppress the proliferation of mosquito larvae, such as removing puddles after floods and improving drainage. Japan has extensive experience in the fields of disaster response technology and environmental improvement, and by providing technical cooperation that leverages this expertise, it is possible to achieve both damage mitigation and prevention of the spread of infection. We strongly urge the strengthening of ODA contributions and technical cooperation as part of a comprehensive malaria countermeasure that takes into account the effects of climate change.

(Figure 3) Content of Proposal



Conclusion

NGO Reaching Zero-Dose Children is a youth-centered organization aiming to create a society where all children have access to primary healthcare including vaccination. We focus on promoting vaccine access and conduct advocacy activities targeting Gavi. The inclusion of collaboration with the Global Fund in malaria control efforts in Gavi's new strategy, “Gavi 6.0,” marks an important step toward strengthening global health collaboration. However, malaria mortality rates have remained stagnant since 2015, with antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and climate change posing significant barriers to progress. We propose that the Japanese government not only continue its financial contributions but also strengthen its ODA efforts to include measures addressing AMR and climate change adaptation.