

**Sustainable Malaria Control: slide show transcript**  
Pesticide Action Network North America

**Narrator:** Malaria kills a child every 30 seconds, with over 90 per cent of the deaths occurring in sub-Saharan Africa. Henry Diouf from Pesticide Action Network Africa is appalled at the toll malaria continues to take on the continent.

**Henry Diouf:** (At) PAN Africa, as our other colleagues, (our) other partners in the world we are very concerned about the catastrophic public health tragedy that malaria represents for Africa but also for the other regions. And we are very aware of the deep burden that malaria is for the continent. We think we need to fight malaria and malaria needs to be our first priority.

**Narrator:** The global community is finally responding to the problem of malaria. After years of neglect, new resources are pouring into Africa to distribute bednets and provide better health care for malaria victims. However, communities and health professionals in Africa are concerned about one of the more controversial malaria control tools - spraying the infamous pesticide DDT inside people's homes. In the 1970s DDT was phased out in many countries due to concerns for human health and the environment. Dr Paul Saoke from Kenya is promoting sustainable malaria control.

**Dr. Paul Saoke:** We have actually seen plenty of health effects that are associated with DDT. As I am talking now there are several publications that are lined up in international journals that describe extreme health conditions that in Africa we are not able to cope with or manage.

**Narrator:** recent scientific studies demonstrate that increased reliance on DDT for malaria control puts African children at risk of significant neurodevelopmental delays, and families at risk of higher miscarriage rates, poor sperm quality and other fertility problems. Shawna Larson, an Indigenous leader from Alaska explains why DDT is also a concern for people in the Arctic.

**Shawna Larson:** We know that these contaminants are migrating north including DDT and now we are finding in our fish and in our moose puss sacks and tumors when we are going to eat them. It is finding its way up the food chain into our breast milk and into our children.

**Narrator:** DDT is targeted for global elimination under the Stockholm Convention, an international treaty adopted by 153 countries. The treaty allows short-term use of DDT to control malaria, while helping countries move toward safer solutions. Many sustainable approaches exist for combating malaria worldwide.

**Dr. Paul Saoke:** We should consider mostly environmental control of malaria vector. In Kenya we are able to produce *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* which is a larvicide actually. We are also able to produce pyretherin based products which can now last longer in the environment and equally cheap and affordable. Also the use of bednets is

actually working a lot of wonders now. Kenya for example has distributed 8.5 million bednets to date and this has managed to reduce malaria morbidity and mortality by 40% in children who are under 5 years of age. The International Center for Insect Physiology and Ecology is also doing a lot of research including insect baits and traps that are actually working at community level. The best underlying factor in all this is community participation in all these projects.

**Narrator:** People everywhere are calling for smarter malaria control solutions.

**Henry Diouf:** (At) PAN Africa we are calling the international community to direct their support in the fighting against malaria towards safer, effective and locally appropriate strategies.

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