

Information in this publication is a general outline of Medical Mission of Australia activities.

It can not and should not replace the advice and supervision of medical professionals.

Medical Mission of Australia may assist other organizations with professional medical supervision of overseas aid projects.

“Programmes against Malaria and to make pregnancy and childbirth safer are a blessing and a benefit. I commend Medical Mission of Australia for the good work they do.”

**(+) George Pell
Cardinal Archbishop of Sydney**

***Donations welcome.
Remember Medical Mission of Australia
in your will.***

This will allow us to develop program(s):

- Tuberculosis, hepatitis & HIV / AIDS
- * Asthma Prevention
- Dependency Prevention
- * Cancer Research and Treatment

Medical Mission of Australia

The Medical Mission of Australia is a division of the Medical & Mobility Mission of Australia Association Inc. a charitable institution caring for Catholic communities / missionaries in poor countries.

(Association incorporated in Victoria No A0042070L)

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“Medical Activities of Medical Mission of Australia to Combat Malaria and Making Pregnancy and Childbirth Safer”

Malaria is the most important human parasitic disease causing over 170 million cases annually, of which over a million die. In recent years, malaria has been subject to massive control efforts, with varying degrees of success, but the disease has been resurgent for last two decades. Resistance

of malaria parasites to the main antimalarial drugs is now a serious problem in South-East Asia. Malaria epidemics are an increasing problem. There are over a hundred species of malarial **parasite** (*Plasmodium spp*), but only four species have humans as their natural host: *P. falciparum*, *P. malariae*, *P. vivax*, and *P. ovale*. Human infection is initiated when parasites from the salivary glands of female *Anopheles mosquito* are injected into the human bloodstream. They migrate to liver cells where they mature and invade red blood cells. Parasites mature in red blood cells and are released into the blood stream. During the release stage, paroxysms of fever appear. This is a diagnostic feature of malaria infection. Malaria infection is associated with the reduction in a haemoglobin levels, frequently leading to **anaemia**. *P. falciparum* causes the

the most severe and profound anaemia with a significant risk of death, particularly in children. Malaria is also a major cause of maternal anaemia, death, miscarriage, stillbirth, premature delivery, low birth weight and baby death in those areas where malaria infection is uncommon and women of childbearing age have little immunity. Hypoglycaemia (low blood **sugar level**) is important and a recognized feature of malaria that should be detected and treated early. It may be asymptomatic especially in pregnancy.

Malaria is so dangerous in pregnancy that women who cannot leave the area of transmission must be given intermittent preventative treatment or antimalarial prophylaxis extending after childbirth. Malaria control relies on breaking the chain of transmission between mosquitoes and people, however insecticide resistance of mosquitoes and drug resistance of parasite increase.

Current activities of Medical Mission of Australia are concentrated on:

Prevention:

Improvement of general health:

- to educate, provide and /or supply appropriate vitamins for people under care and supply folic acid to women in childbearing age without malaria.

Food preparation

-to educate, provide or subsidise iron cooking pots to decrease anaemia.

Environmental intervention:

- in the areas suitable for fish (lakes, ponds, ect.) educate, and supply live fish that preferentially feed on mosquito larvae.

Insecticides:

- to educate, provide and supply insecticide treated bed sheets or bed nets and exchange them regularly. Organize in house production of bed nets.

Repellents:

- to educate, provide and/or supply personal mosquito repellents.

Community based treatment:

Paracetamol:

- to educate and supply paracetamol.

Detection of low blood sugar:

- to educate, provide and or supply glucometers with strips and batteries.

Artemisia annua; Sweet wormwood; Qinghao in China; Thanh hao in Vietnam
- to provide *Artemisia annua* seeds.
- to educate in planting, processing and use of *Artemisia annua* in acute malarial Episodes with/without antibiotics, before more radical treatment is available.