

IRAN (Islamic Republic of)



57

indigenous malaria cases
in 2017

868

imported malaria cases
in 2017

0

deaths due to
– locally-acquired malaria since 2011
– imported malaria in 2017



Iran has made strong progress in reducing its malaria burden. In 2017, there were 57 indigenous cases, down from more than 1800 in 2010, and significantly less than the 12 000 indigenous cases reported in 2000.

The sustained decline in malaria transmission has been realized through an aggressive national plan that was reoriented towards elimination in 2006, and which set 2025 as the timeline to achieve malaria-free status. An important feature of Iran's approach to tackling malaria has been the robustness of its surveillance system and its focus on establishing emergency sites and rapid response teams to prevent and control malaria outbreaks. This has been important to help contain the resurgence of imported cases in Sistan and Baluchestan Province, bordering Afghanistan and Pakistan. The government views imported malaria as the main challenge it faces in fighting the disease. With significant migration flows across the Iran-Pakistan border, the continued importation of malaria remains high and puts at risk the country's overall progress towards elimination.

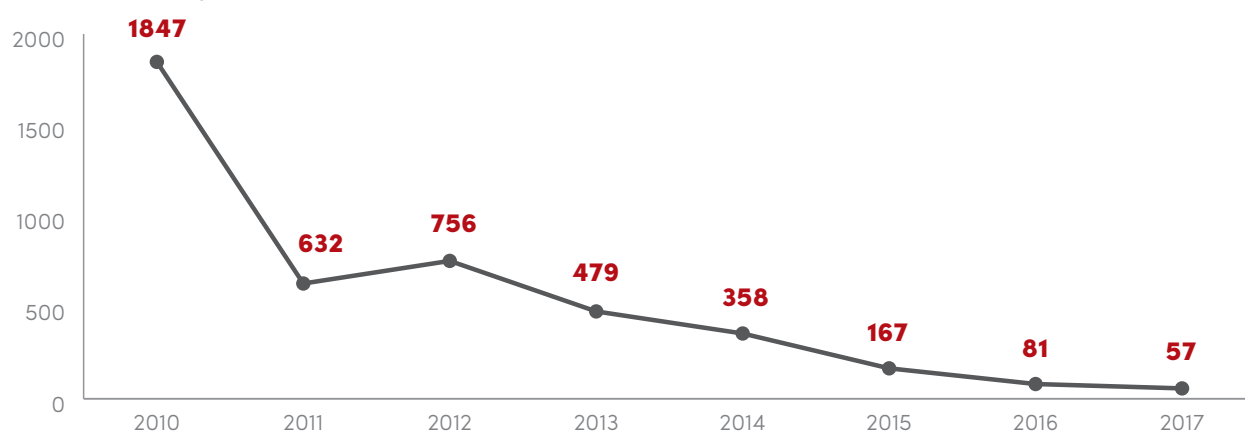
IRAN (Islamic Republic of)

AT A GLANCE

- > Dominant malaria species prior to reaching zero indigenous cases: ***Plasmodium vivax* (95%)**
- > Populations at greater risk: **Inhabitants of the southeastern provinces of Kerman (southern areas), Hormozgan, and Sistan and Baluchestan, particularly the border areas with Pakistan**
- > Number of areas (foci) with active malaria transmission: **315**
- > Number of people at risk of malaria in these areas: **456 000**

MALARIA IMPACT

- number of indigenous malaria cases 2010–2017



KEEPING ON COURSE

Iran will need to:

- **Step up cross-border cooperation**, particularly with neighbouring Pakistan, to address the continued threat of malaria importation, which could slow the achievement of Iran's elimination objective.
- **Increase investments** in the malaria response, as Iran no longer qualifies for resources from The Global Fund – its last grant ended in 2017. Greater investments from domestic sources are required to secure predictable funding to sustain the gains made and to prevent re-establishment of malaria once eliminated.
- **Prepare for WHO certification**. As Iran advances towards elimination, it should take the necessary steps to begin a country-owned and country-led certification process.

Preliminary data for 2017 (Source: national malaria control programme reports); final figures will be published in the *World malaria report 2018*