

# Malaria

**Every thirty seconds, a child dies of malaria,** and worldwide, more children die as a result of this disease than any other. Children are particularly at risk when other diseases and poor nutrition have weakened them.

**Malaria is a serious and fatal disease** caused by a parasite that is transmitted from one person to another through a mosquito bite. Malaria parasites are so small that they can only be seen under a microscope. They feed on the blood cells, multiply inside them and destroy them.

**When a mosquito bites an infected person,** it ingests microscopic malaria parasites found in the person's blood. The malaria parasite must grow in the mosquito for a week or more before infection can be passed to another person. Then, when the mosquito bites another person, the parasites go from the mosquito's mouth into the person's blood.

**Over 100 million children are exposed to malaria each year.**

Attempts to control malaria are tough because the disease has



Bed net used to protect families from mosquitoes



Picture of the "Anopheles mosquito"

**How can you help save a child from dying of malaria?**

**Help take a bite out of this global disease.** Work with your peers to educate the public about malaria and organize a fundraiser to purchase insecticide treated bed nets. For as little as \$5 per bed net, you can save the life of a child.

