



The World Health Organization and Eni:
the Roll Back Malaria partnership in Azerbaijan



THE WHO/ENI ROLL BACK MALARIA PROJECT IN AZERBAIJAN

In 1999 the World Health Organization (WHO) launched the Roll Back Malaria Project in Azerbaijan. The project is being entirely financed by Eni and has a duration of three years.

The objective of the Project is to assist the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Azerbaijan in strengthening its malaria prevention and control capabilities by:

- providing anti-malaria drugs, sanitary equipment and supplies, insecticides and spraying equipment;
- training of public health personnel and health care operators engaged in the management of malaria prevention and control activities.

The collaboration with the World Health Organization and the Ministry of Health started in 1997 with Eni's contribution to the Government's initial efforts in combating malaria by providing anti-malaria drugs and biodegradable insecticides.

The WHO has always considered the fight against malaria a priority. In 1998 it reaffirmed its commitment to this cause by launching the Roll Back Malaria Initiative (RBM) in partnership with the UNDP, UNICEF and the World Bank. The aim of RBM is to enable national health systems to combat malaria more effectively and to respond to the sanitary and health needs of the population. The Initiative represents the first important step in tackling the disease in a concerted

and systematic matter. The conditions have been set out for creating a worldwide network of governments, development agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations and the private sector, with each stakeholder contributing its own resources and skills, and participating in a global partnership to roll back malaria. It is in this spirit of collaboration that Eni has embraced the principles and objectives underlying the Initiative and is committed to contributing to the strategy of intervention of Roll Back Malaria.

In order to cope effectively with the recurrence of malaria in the European region, the WHO Regional Office for Europe, based in Copenhagen, has launched a specific program called Roll Back Malaria EURO.



The Roll Back Malaria project in Azerbaijan aims to reduce the incidence of the disease in infected areas by 50% and prevent it from spreading to non-affected areas in the country and in neighboring countries. As a result of the Government's program launched in 1997, the number of reported cases of malaria have been reduced. However in absence of additional prevention and control measures, the situation is likely to deteriorate.

To address these critical health and medical care issues, Eni's programs focus on strengthening the capacity of local health systems to provide easily accessible health care services to the widest number of people, collaborating with local health authorities in training and health services, providing for basic sanitary hygienic conditions, as well as bringing a wide range of infections and diseases under control.

In order to achieve the objective set out by the Project the following activities will be carried out:

- early detection and adequate radical treatment of cases of malaria;
- control of vectors (Anopheles mosquitoes) through the targeted use of insecticides;
- strengthening of malaria prevention and control capabilities;
- health education, information and promotion of community participation;
- mosquito source reduction through effective environmental management.



Eni's support to the Roll Back Malaria Project in Azerbaijan and more generally to the Government's national malaria prevention and control program, reaffirms the company's commitment to assisting its local partners' efforts in removing the obstacles to the fulfillment of local aspirations and needs, and to improving the living conditions of the communities and populations of Azerbaijan.

"Health for All" is the principal objective on the WHO agenda for the coming millennium. The right to health is a *sine qua non* for countries' development and sustainable growth.



More broadly, Eni's commitment to the well-being of the communities in Azerbaijan also extends to education, the social sector and culture. These initiatives are undertaken in consultation with the local government authorities and institutions, and are also aimed at promoting a fruitful exchange of know-how and experiences.

Solutions to the main health problems facing the communities and populations of these countries cannot be addressed only by national and international health authorities, but should also see the active involvement of all the stakeholders present in society, ranging from Non-Governmental Organizations to national governments, from companies to individual communities. In this way sound and effective strategies and policies aimed at ensuring universal access to health services can be formulated and implemented with the participation of all concerned.

Through this agreement, the WHO and Eni confirm their shared belief that the promotion and development of closer forms of collaboration between the private and public sector can help in providing viable and effective solutions to ensuring the well-being and development of individuals and communities.

ABOUT MALARIA

Malaria is one of the world's most widespread infectious diseases; it has an incidence of 300 to 500 million clinical cases each year (90% in tropical Africa) with 1.5 to 2.7 million deaths. More than one million of those who die are children under 5 year old.

The active program of international co-operation for malaria eradication launched by the WHO in 1956 led to a substantial decline in the incidence of the disease until 1968. Subsequently technical difficulties, such as the emergence of insecticide-resistant mosquitoes and drug-resistant strains of *Plasmodia*, as well as a variety of administrative problems, led to the resurgence of malaria in many parts of the world.



Malaria persists in those areas where both the mosquito population and the infected human population remain above critical density.

Control measures are aimed to control both these factors. They include: the appropriate treatment of malaria cases and chemoprophylaxis of people temporarily exposed to the risk, environmental management in the areas in which mosquitoes breed (marshes, stagnant water and waterlogged zones), the use of insecticides and mosquito nets. Preventive measures can be both mechanical and pharmacological. The mechanical measures include wearing light-colored clothes that cover as much of the body as possible and applying insect repellents to the skin. Pharmacological prevention can be achieved by taking prophylactic drugs that can be selected and prescribed only by a physician on the basis of the malaria risk to which the person will be exposed.

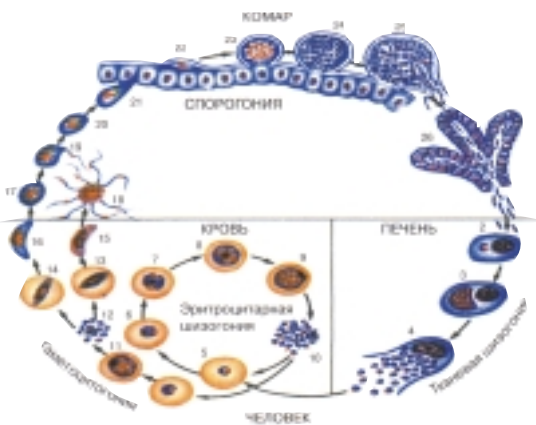


Рис. 2.3. Схема жизненного цикла *Plasmodium falciparum*

Life cycle of *Plasmodium falciparum*

ENI'S COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Eni's attention to the needs of the communities where it is present has always been one of its distinct features. This principle is firmly embedded in the history of our company. Today Eni's business and community involvement reaches almost 80 countries. Wherever it operates, Eni looks for ways to build strong and effective partnerships with the people and communities it encounters. Eni does this by concentrating its efforts on promoting their social and economic well-being, while at the same time respecting their culture, society, laws and environment.



Eni is committed to removing barriers to the development of local aspirations, to promoting the exchange of technical and scientific know-how and capabilities, as well as to providing support to local autonomous initiatives.

Eni firmly believes that only those communities that are independent and dynamic have the opportunity to prosper and develop and become viable partners as well.

Eni is aware that most of the development issues confronting the communities in the countries where it is present require the active participation of all the stakeholders present in society. For this reason it has always searched for possible areas of collaboration with national and international organizations whenever its own long-term goals of community relations and development have coincided with those of such organizations and of the communities involved.

Through the years Eni has worked closely with a wide range of Non-Governmental Organizations, humanitarian associations and development institutions such as Unicef, the World Health Organization, Medecins Sans Frontières, Medicus Mundi, and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture.

