

# Call for Urgent Support

Since 1998, Anti-Malaria Association (AMA) has provided support services to government and popular efforts to prevent and control malaria in four zones within the Amhara National Regional State (ANRS). So far people have, directly and indirectly, benefited from AMA's interventions. Its activities include:

- Purchasing, strategically storing and distributing anti-malaria drugs.
- Mobilizing medical professionals to provide on-the-spot treatment and give prevention seminars.
- Organizing beneficiaries, relevant government and civic society representatives for sustainable and self-reliant prevention and control efforts.
- Mounting periodic volunteer students (mainly university and high school) campaigns for maximum awareness creation and community service to reduce sources of malaria breeding pocket sites.
- Preparation and implementation of relevant projects in cooperation with government and other NGOs.
- Providing current information to government agencies and others.

Although AMA has developed institutional infrastructures and credibility to reach the people at grassroots level, it has neither the financial or human resources to provide the required comprehensive and sustainable services.

This last May/June 2003 there has been malaria epidemic throughout the four zones covered by AMA (Awi, Bahir Dar, East and West Gojjam). Reports from AMA committees, civic organizations such as *Idirs*, churches, and health centres indicate tens of thousands of malaria victims and thousands of death. Decimation of whole families and families leaving children behind have been reported. Many HIV/AIDS victims are said to have died due to malaria related causes. The consequential long-term economic and social destabilizations are expected to be enormous. The Association has made every effort to provide assistance within its capacities and to bring the matter to the attention of the relevant government agencies and civic society leadership.

From experience, the epidemic is expected to re-emerge in much greater intensity in September 2003, following the rainy season. Preparations have to be undertaken now. The government has announced that it will make a nation wide effort. However, active participation by AMA will be needed. Our intervention will be in areas such as purchase and on-the-spot storage of anti-malaria drugs, mobilize professional health personnel for field services, further strengthen local Anti-Malaria Committees, intensify delivery of awareness seminars, promote removal of malaria breeding enclaves and continue collection and distribution of relevant information, etc. Unfortunately its present financial and human resources will not permit AMA to make effective preparations.

AMA depends on membership fees; project related cooperation with government and other NGOs and donations from supporters of its missions. We are, therefore, appealing to you for your support financially or otherwise. We also hope that you will be able to attend the conference to be staged by the Association next month. The specific date and venue will be announced soon.

Here are some facts:

**1. AMA team reported on 30/05/03**

No	Woreda	Kebele	Total Patients	Death	Duration
1	Mecha	-	645	Not registered	27/04/03 - 30/05/03
2	Jabi Tehnan	-	8607	Not registered	01/04/03 - 30/04/03
3	Quarit	Not defined	1634	33	27/04/03 - 20/05/03
4	Quarit	5 kebeles	9075	348	15/04/03 - 07/06/03
5	Bibugn	Abderay & surroundings	2362	185	27/04/03 - 20/05/03
6	Bibugn	Woyen Wuha & surroundings	1375	179	27/04/03 - 20/05/03

**2. Kebele Administration**

No	Woreda	Place	Death	Duration
1	Jabi Tehinan	Zaba Tsion Kebele	190	23/04/03 - 23/06/03
4	Bibugn	Quontir Kebele	423	18/04/03 - 03/07/03

In Zaba Tsion Kebele 8 homes were closed since all family members have died.

**3. Public information**

No	Woreda	Place	Death	Duration
1	Dembecha	Dembecha town	340	23/04/03 - 03/07/03
2	Machakel	Not defined	355	23/04/03 - 23/06/03

**4. Health Institutions**

No	Center	Place	Out patient	In patient	Death	Duration
1	Felege Hiwet Hospital	Bahir Dar	1,592	701	36	09/04/03 - 07/07/03
2	Debre Markos Hospital	Debre Markos	495	158	27	10/05/03 - 24/06/03
3	Gamby Private Clinic	Bahir Dar	737	92	-	09/05/03 - 28/06/03
4	Finote Selam Hospital	Finote Selam	4,154	Un known	49	22/08/03 - 07/07/03
5	Malaria Centers	Finote Selam	62,665	-	-	09/04/03 - 07/07/03

In July 6, in Debre Markos hospital out of 61 in-patients in the Medical ward 41 were malaria patients.

The Falciparum cases were highly dominant. In Debre Markos hospital 76%, in Felege Hiwot hospital 85% and in Gamby clinic 99% were falciparum patients. This shows the severity of the epidemics.

In the meantime we expect your generous response soon and join us in this endeavour to save lives. We will be expecting to hear from you. We can be reached at:

**Tel: 251-1-273435, 270865**  
**251-9-401295**  
**251-8-207024**  
**251-8-713655**  
**Fax 251-1-565722**  
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Please call us for further details.

Thank you  
Abere Mihretie  
Director