



WORLD MALARIA DAY

World Malaria Day is celebrated on the 25th of April every year. The theme for 2021 is “**Zero Malaria – Draw the Line Against Malaria**”, because every malaria case is preventable, and every malaria death is unacceptable.

Malaria is a disease caused by a plasmodium parasite transmitted by the bite of a female *Anopheles* mosquito. The severity of malaria varies based on the species of plasmodium.

Despite the significant progress made in malaria response in Sub-Saharan Africa, the WHO African Region accounted for 94% of both the 229 million malaria cases and 409,000 malaria deaths reported globally in 2019.

AngloGold Ashanti’s Obuasi mine recognized the devastating effect of malaria among employees and within the communities within which the mine operated several years ago.

In 2006, AngloGold Ashanti started an Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) program, through its Malaria Control department, now AngloGold Ashanti (Malaria) Control (AGAMal). Fifteen years on, this programme has brought about a drastic decline in malaria-related cases in Obuasi and its environs. From a peak of over 6000 cases recorded annually at the mine’s hospital, AGA Health Foundation, to 66

confirmed cases in 2020, we can say this has been a success.

AGA remains committed to the fight against Malaria and will like to remind employees and all stakeholders that with a collective effort, we can Draw the Line Against Malaria; we can have a **Malaria Free Mine** and a **Malaria Free Community**.

The persons most vulnerable to malaria are:

- Children under five years
- Pregnant Women
- Person from low endemic regions (Our Expatriate Community), and
- Elderly persons

If malaria is not treated well, it can lead to complications such as: liver & kidney failure, swelling and rupturing of the spleen, neurological defects, and death.

Let us all be reminded to practice the following both at home and at work in our journey to **ZERO MALARIA**:

1. Use a mosquito net at night when sleeping.
2. Seek immediate medical advice if you have malaria symptoms
3. When on night duty cover the exposed parts of your body or use insect repellent.

