

Egypt's 100-Year Battle Ends with WHO Malaria-Free Certification



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Egypt has been proclaimed malaria-free by the WHO, a major success after nearly a century of government and citizen efforts. This is impressive for a 100-million-person nation.

Egypt became the third country in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region after the UAE and Morocco and the first since 2010 to achieve this.

Globally, 44 nations and 1 territory have achieved this status.

Malaria-free status requires interrupted indigenous transmission for three years and the ability to prevent transmission.

Evidence implies malaria has plagued Egyptians since 4000 BCE. Genetic signs of malaria have been found in Tutankhamun and other Egyptian mummies.

The efforts to eliminate malaria started in the 1920s when rice and other crops were banned near homes. During that time, malaria was 40% common among the people.

Following the classification of malaria as a notifiable disease in 1930, malaria control stations were established to improve diagnosis, treatment, and surveillance.

Egypt reported over 3 million malaria cases in 1942, the end of World War II. *Anopheles arabiensis*, a powerful mosquito vector, also spread throughout the country.

Egypt effectively addressed the malaria outbreak by establishing 16 treatment departments and deploying more than 4,000 medical professionals.

The completion of the Aswan Dam in 1969 elevated the potential threat of malaria due to it being a large source of stagnant water. A collaborative initiative focused on vector control and public health surveillance was established with Sudan to enable the prompt identification and resolution of epidemics.

By the year 2001, malaria had been successfully brought under control, prompting the Ministry of Health and Population to implement strategies aimed at preventing the resurgence of local malaria transmission.

In the year 2014, a minor epidemic emerged in the Aswan region; however, it was promptly eradicated through early detection, effective treatment, vector control measures, and initiatives aimed at enhancing public awareness.

Egypt provides free diagnosis and treatment to anyone, regardless of legal status, to prevent malaria and prevent recurrence of malaria. Healthcare personnel have also received extensive training to identify and screen malaria cases. Lastly, the collaboration with neighboring nations is what led to Egypt being certified as malaria-free by WHO.

“Receiving the malaria elimination certificate today is not the end of the journey but the beginning of a new phase. We must now work tirelessly and vigilantly to sustain our achievement through maintaining the highest standards for surveillance, diagnosis, and treatment; integrated vector management; and sustaining our effective and rapid response to imported cases. Our continued multisectoral efforts will be critical to preserving Egypt's malaria-free status,” quoted **H.E. Dr. Khaled Abdel Ghaffar, Deputy Prime Minister of Egypt**.

Read the original article by WHO here: [Egypt is certified malaria-free by WHO](#)