

**85**

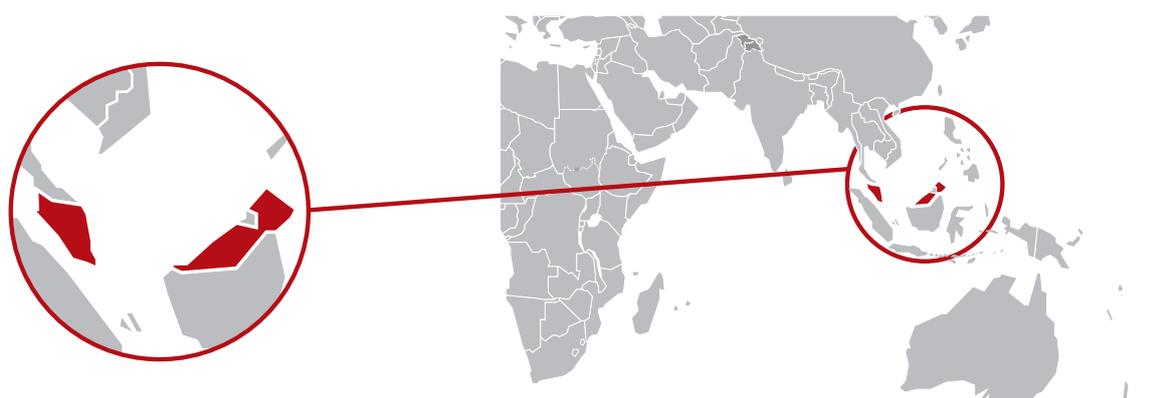
**indigenous human malaria cases**  
in 2017<sup>1</sup>

**423**

**imported human malaria cases**  
in 2017

**0**

**local human malaria deaths**  
in 2017  
**12** deaths due to imported malaria  
in 2017



As part of its country-owned and nationally-funded malaria strategy, Malaysia has committed to eliminate indigenous human malaria transmission by 2020.

In 2017, the country reported a total of 508 cases (local and imported) of the human type of malaria, down substantially from 6141 cases in 2010. An important aspect of the disease in the country is the presence of *P. knowlesi* malaria, a parasite normally found in monkeys, now accounting for the majority of local cases. *P. knowlesi* remains a zoonotic disease without documented sustained human-to-human transmission. Overall, malaria transmission in Malaysia is largely confined to Sabah and Sarawak, two states located on the island of Borneo, where a significant proportion of the population is at risk of the disease. In response, the country is stepping up implementation of its national strategic plan for elimination covering the period 2011–2020. Among other measures, the plan aims to strengthen surveillance, intensify vector control and ensure early detection and treatment. Central to the strategy is ensuring prompt malaria diagnosis in remote and hard-to-reach regions where access to health services is limited. Of particular concern are temporary foreign workers who, because of the transient nature of their employment, are difficult to track and screen for malaria. Officials have committed to engaging with employers to distribute long-lasting insecticidal nets, increase indoor residual spraying of housing and accommodations, and provide information on malaria prevention and treatment. With focused attention on current gaps and the full implementation of its national plan, Malaysia remains well positioned to achieve its elimination goal.

1. **3606** local cases of zoonotic malaria (*P. knowlesi*) in 2017; **8** imported cases of zoonotic malaria in 2017.

# MALAYSIA

## AT A GLANCE

- > Dominant local human malaria species: ***Plasmodium vivax* (69%)**
- > Populations at greater risk: **Labourers, including foreign workers, in agriculture, farming and forestry sectors in East Malaysia**
- > Number of areas (foci) with active malaria transmission: **33**
- > Number of people at risk of malaria in these areas: **8666**

## MALARIA IMPACT

- number of indigenous malaria cases 2010–2017



## KEEPING ON COURSE

Malaysia will need to:

- **Increase surveillance** of *P. knowlesi* zoonotic infections and strengthen elimination efforts.
- **Intensify surveillance** activities to address the threat of malaria importation and better target foreign and migrant workers engaged in activities such as agriculture, forestry and mining.
- **Continue to invest** in its national malaria strategy to ensure the financing of programmes targeting elimination and prevention of reintroduction.

Source: *World malaria report 2018*