Nepal has set an ambitious vision of being malaria-free by 2025.

To that end, the country’s malaria programme, underpinned by its 2014-2025 elimination strategy, has established two key guideposts: sustain the downward trend in malaria deaths and reduce the overall malaria burden by end 2018; and achieve zero indigenous cases by 2022. Good progress has been made, with indigenous cases of malaria continuing to follow a year-on-year decline and malaria deaths also dropping. However, a key challenge is controlling imported malaria from neighbouring India and other malaria-endemic countries where Nepali citizens work. A malaria programme review conducted in 2017 resulted in recommendations to support the government in fine-tuning efforts towards elimination. This included heightening advocacy and behavior change communication among high-risk communities and populations, and strengthening the technical, programmatic and managerial capacities of the ministry of health to reflect the shift from malaria control towards elimination.

1. Number of indigenous malaria cases was estimated from national reports with adjustments for completeness of reporting, the likelihood that presumed cases were parasite positive and the extent of health-service use.
NEPAL

AT A GLANCE

- Dominant malaria species: *Plasmodium vivax* (85%)
- Populations at greater risk: Ethnic minorities, mobile populations, young adults and inhabitants of areas bordering India
- Number of areas (foci) with active malaria transmission: 424 wards
- Number of people at risk of malaria in these areas: 1.52 million

MALARIA IMPACT

- Number of indigenous malaria cases 2010-2017

![Malaria Impact Graph](chart.png)

KEEPING ON COURSE

Nepal will need to:

- **Strengthen the national malaria** programme and introduce heightened surveillance and control measures to ensure a rapid response to positive cases and outbreaks and subsequent tracking. This is particularly pertinent for at-risk populations.
- **Establish a formal mechanism** for cross-border collaboration with India to tackle imported malaria in high transmission areas.
- **Diversify its partnership** base to secure adequate and predictable financing. Closing the current financial gap will be vital to achieve and sustain its elimination programme.

Source: World malaria report 2018