

Case study: combatting malaria in Africa

Progress is being made in the fight against malaria, a preventable disease. But it is still a significant challenge. The WHO states that 3.2 billion people remain at risk. In 2016, there were 216 million cases of malaria with 445,000 malaria deaths. The majority of cases occur in Africa.

Malaria is a major health concern for our employees, clients and their global workforce, as well as their local communities. Every year our Africa region uses a multi-faceted approach to combat this disease. For the sixth year in a row, the International SOS teams in Africa took time out to raise awareness about malaria among employees, clients, and their communities for Malaria week.

We also purchased 24,700 bracelets over a six-year period from the Relate charity. Contributions from these purchases were used to sponsor mosquito nets, protecting over 23,400 children in Africa for the six-year period.

During Malaria week, similar activities took place in other countries: South Africa, Ghana, Mozambique, Gabon, Angola, Chad, Nigeria and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).



Case study: the Teddy Bear Hospital – educating the children of Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan on healthcare

Besides actively engaging with the local communities in the regions where we operate, we also invest time and resources to build good health habits among children through educational events. Teddy Bear Hospital is one such initiative run by International SOS. It aims to help address children's misperceptions of doctors and allay fears.

These events are organised by our doctors, medical and administrative staff. The children learn about good health habits and the value of vaccination. They have the opportunity to explore the interior of an ambulance and better understand its capabilities. They also get to visit the operating theatre and learn how the X-ray machine works.

We have been running these events for several years across schools, orphanages and at community events. Today, several schools in Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan are equipped with Child Health Posters, and over 1,000 children attended these events across the two countries. The children also receive colouring books with health tips.

The feedback from these events is always positive. We have seen an increase in demand for such activities from local communities, schools and charities year-on-year. Most importantly, we see how children appreciate these events and are keen for them to happen again.