

Video Message by H.E. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
On the Occasion of World Malaria Day
Theme: “Invest in the Future, Defeat Malaria”
Being Celebrated in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County
April 25, 2013

Greetings, my fellow Liberians, as you commemorate World Malaria Day in beautiful Buchanan, Grand Bassa County.

As we join the rest of the world in observing this international Day, on April 25th, let me say, in my capacity as President and as Chair of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA), that the fight against malaria must be everyone’s concern.

Malaria remains the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in our country. It is responsible for 35 percent of all out-patient attendance and 33 percent of all in-patient deaths.

We have made some gains, evidenced in the recent Malaria Indicator Surveys report, which shows a sustained decline in prevalence in under-five children from 66 percent in 2005 to 32 percent in 2009 to 28 percent in 2011 (the last year for which figures are available). Despite the drop, malaria remains the leading killer of under-five children, a disease of serious public health concern.

As President of Liberia and ALMA Chair, let me congratulate our continent for its successes in the fight against malaria in recent years. The Roll Back Malaria 2012 report shows that Africa is today a success story, having reduced malaria deaths by one third, significantly improved access to malaria control interventions in a

number of countries, and where child mortality rates have fallen by approximately 20 percent.

As ALMA Chair and advocate of those worst affected by malaria – children and pregnant women – I call upon our continent to maintain and improve upon the recorded achievements by sustaining the gains which remain fragile. This can only happen if we continue collectively to see malaria as a national priority and continue to invest in the fight against it.

I encourage healthcare providers to continue and improve on their great work; and encourage my fellow citizens and foreign residents to use the available malaria interventions: sleep under mosquito nets; take your child for immediate treatment if he/she gets sick; and pregnant women should visit health facilities for their Intermittent Preventive Treatment (IPT) against malaria.

All stakeholders must invest in the fight against malaria. Together, let us sustain the gains and continue to save lives. Together, let us intensify the fight against malaria.

Thank you.