

## WORLD MOSQUITO DAY

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World Mosquito Day is held on August 20<sup>th</sup> every year to recognize the significance and burden of mosquito borne diseases, particularly malaria. We recognize the discovery made by Sir Ronald Ross and others in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century that anopheles mosquitos spread the dangerous parasites that cause malaria. This revelation transformed human knowledge of the disease leading to the evolving preventive measures and treatments we have today to fight malaria.

Through diversified strategies and community engagement, World Mosquito Day aims to develop mosquito control practices, educate communities, and promote research in the fight against mosquito-borne diseases.

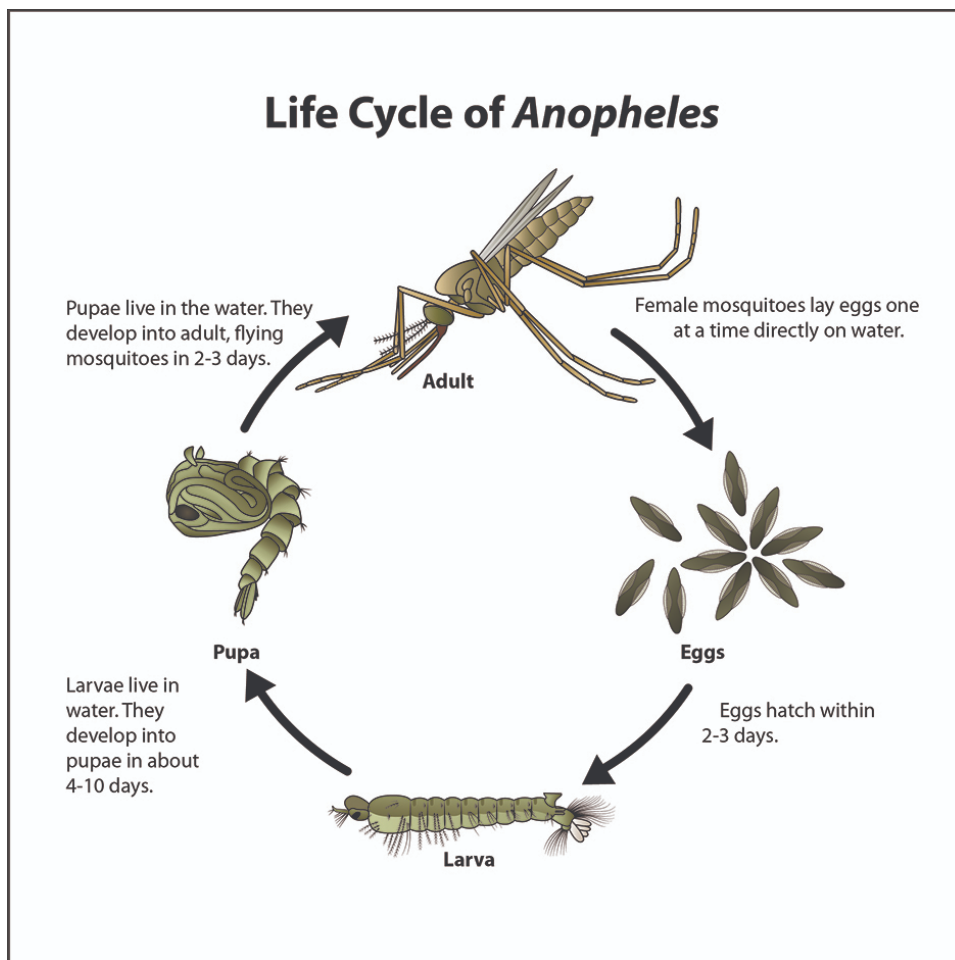


Diagram courtesy of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID), Division of Vector-Borne Diseases (DVBD), 2023.

## HOW MIGHT ROTARIANS AND ROTARY ASSIST?

The Dalai Lama maintained that “if you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping in a room with a mosquito.” And mosquitos have an enormous impact in the spread of disease. Rotarians and Rotary Clubs can make a huge difference by raising awareness and sharing information about World Mosquito Day with individuals, family, and communities, and educate people on the impact of mosquito-borne diseases such as malaria.

Malaria impacts half of the world’s population and caused 619,000 deaths in 2021, mainly children and pregnant women (World Health Organization, World Malaria Report, 2022). Malaria parasites attack and destroy oxygen carrying red blood cells causing severe anaemia. Without early treatment, death can occur in a matter of hours.

Rotarians and Rotary Clubs can support fundraising activities such as those of Rotarians Against Malaria (RAWCS-RAM, Australia), Rotarians Against Malaria Global or partner with overseas Rotary Clubs on Global Grants. Rotary works with the permission of national governments and communities in many malaria endemic countries. A popular program is to educate, equip and support community health workers to work in their own communities preventing, diagnosing and treating malaria.

Social media such as Face Book, Instagram, Linked in, and You Tube can be used to share inspiration and knowledge about mosquito-borne diseases and malaria prevention projects taking place. It all counts.

[This article was adapted from Malaria Partners International –World Mosquito Day: August 20, 2023 \(blog, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023\).](#)