

## Worker Health

Project clinics provided more than 18,000 worker medical consultations during the first quarter of 2003, about equally split between Chad and Cameroon. The number of consultations has started dropping in synchronization with the decline in the size of the Project's construction work force.

### ◀ 1st Quarter 2003 Project Worker Health Data

	STDs	SSS* Events (excluding Malaria & STDs)	Hospitalizations	Medevacs
<b>Chad</b>	165	9	2	0
<b>Cameroon</b>	276	67	15	0
<b>Project Total</b>	441	76	17	0

\*SSS: Early warning system used to identify changes in disease rates. Some examples of diseases covered by the SSS include gastrointestinal, dermal and respiratory diseases.

### Tracking Malaria in Worker Populations

Malaria incidence rates have dropped markedly, comparing year to year statistics from 2002 and 2003. This is evidence of the effectiveness of the Project's malaria prevention and treatment programs for workers.

- The number of malaria cases among non-immune workers dropped significantly this quarter compared to the same quarter in 2002, even though the size of the non-immune work force more than doubled in the same period.
- The Project's malaria-related hospitalization rate for semi-immune workers continues to run at a level that is approximately one-ninth the rate of the overall population in Chad and Cameroon.

As these statistics indicate, the Project carefully tracks malaria cases among its workers. The tracking system divides the worker population into two categories - non-immune and semi-immune. (For a precise definition of these terms, please see the notes attached to each of the malaria rate tables below. In rough terms, semi-immune workers are individuals who were born and grew up in malarious areas in sub-

Saharan Africa. Non-immune workers generally are expatriates or other workers from outside sub-Saharan Africa.)

It should also be emphasized that the malaria parasite is spread by mosquitoes, and the annual rainy season produces countless pools of water, which are the ideal breeding habitat for mosquitoes. As a result, the mosquito population explodes during the rainy season, thereby triggering a significant increase in the risk of an individual being bitten by a parasite-carrying mosquito. The duration of the rainy season varies in the Project area but it generally occurs in the second and third quarter of each year.

**Tracking Malaria  
in Worker  
Populations**

**◀ Non-Immune Population (all Falciparum malaria cases)**

	1Q2003
Chad	4
Cameroon	6
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>% of Total Non-Immune Workforce</b>	<b>0.1%</b>

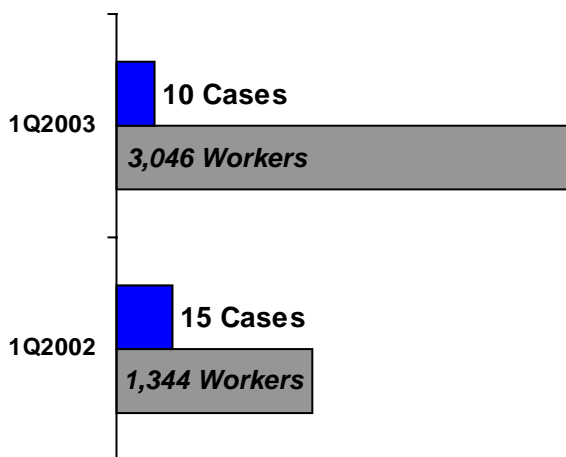
*Non-immune workers are those individuals who come from outside Sub-Saharan Africa (excluding South Africa). These individuals can gain benefit from taking effective anti-malaria medication and they are required to do so under the Project's Malaria Control Program. Therefore, for non-immune workers, the objective is the outright prevention of malaria cases. Thus, the Project tracks all cases of malaria in the non-immune worker population.*

**◀ Semi-Immune Population (serious cases)**

	1Q2003
Chad	0
Cameroon	33
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>% of Total Semi-Immune Workforce</b>	<b>0.1%</b>

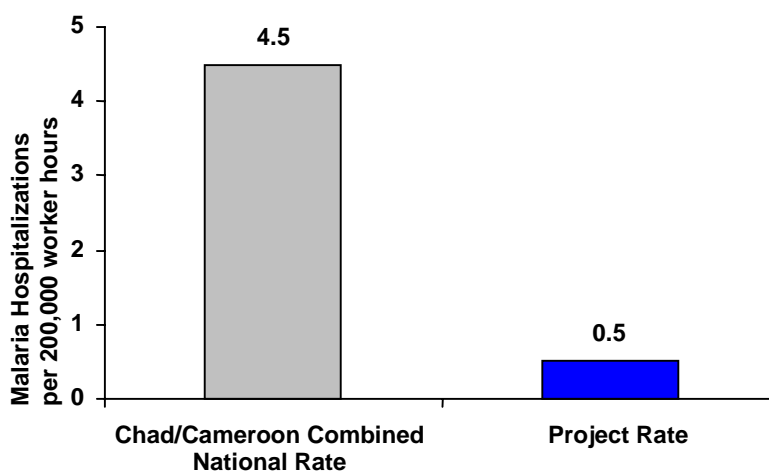
*Semi-immune workers are those individuals who were born in and have grown up in Sub-Saharan Africa (excluding South Africa). Over their lifetime, they have been repeatedly exposed to the malaria parasite and have developed a degree of immunity to the disease. Taking anti-malaria medication could damage this natural protection. Therefore, for semi-immune workers, the objective of the Malaria Control Program is to limit the seriousness of their malaria cases. Tracking of malaria in the semi-immune workforce therefore focuses on those cases requiring hospitalization.*

◀ **Tracking Non-Immune Project Worker Malaria Cases**



The number of malaria cases among non-immune Project workers dropped significantly this quarter compared to the same quarter in 2002, even though the size of the non-immune work force more than doubled in the same period. In fact, the case rate in the Project's non-immune population was one-third that of the comparable quarter in 2002 (0.3 percent this quarter compared to one percent in the same quarter in 2002).

◀ **Comparing National Malaria Hospitalization Rate to Project Semi-Immune Worker Rate**



This graph demonstrates that the malaria hospitalization rate for the Project's semi-immune workers is far lower than the rate among the general population in Chad and Cameroon.

