

# The World Mosquito Program welcomes AUD\$50m from Gates Foundation and Wellcome Trust

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The additional funding will build on the World Mosquito Program's success in reducing the global threat of mosquito-borne diseases and fund studies to measure the efficacy of our *Wolbachia* method, laying the foundation for expansion in developing countries where diseases like dengue, Zika, chikungunya and yellow fever are a severe health burden.

"Witnessing the development of the *Wolbachia* approach from proof of concept to initial studies to the return of definitive epidemiological data is deeply gratifying," says Gates Foundation Deputy Director of Quantitative Sciences, Dr Steve Kern.

"We're pleased that countries are seeing the value of the World Mosquito Program's approach and are funding its use from the Americas to the Asia-Pacific to reduce transmission of dengue and Zika." The World Mosquito Program has shown in a recent paper that our *Wolbachia* method works to stop local dengue transmission at city-wide scale, in a 4-year trial in the northern Australian city of Townsville.

Following these promising results, the World Mosquito Program has garnered global support for the implementation of our *Wolbachia* method in other communities around the world affected by mosquito-borne diseases.

"Thanks to this new funding, we're on track to having a really major impact on these mosquito-borne diseases globally, and at large city scale, as we're showing in densely populated cities such as Rio de Janeiro in Brazil and Medellín in Colombia," says World Mosquito Program Director, Professor Scott O'Neill.

The World Mosquito Program is now operating in 13 countries across Asia, Latin America and the Western Pacific, and adapting our approach for use in large, urban environments at a low cost. It's encouraging to see that with community participation and support, Australian science has the potential to positively impact the lives of millions of people around the world.

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[Learn more about our \*Wolbachia\* method.](#)