

Agnes's Story: "I Thought Miriam Wouldn't Survive"

Mothers like Agnes in Uganda face dangers. They wake up every morning not knowing if their babies and children will survive.

The catastrophic climate emergency has seen a sharp surge in the number of people suffering from malaria.

This deadly disease is rocketing, with cases reaching record levels.

The youngest and pregnant women are most at risk. Some women are suffering heart-breaking miscarriages in pregnancy.



This cannot continue. Training volunteer community health workers can help raise awareness of malaria. They can give advice to overcome risks and treat sick children.

Agnes and her 8-month-old baby, Miriam, live in the Wirao region of the Oyam District. It is particularly affected by the rainy season and the danger it creates for families.

"The weather's changed, the rain has increased. So have breeding places for mosquitoes. There are too many."

Agnes did all she could, but Miriam got a mosquito bite – and she quickly became sick. **"Miriam was constantly hot, yellow eyes, vomiting. She lacked appetite. I thought she wouldn't survive."**

The fear was overwhelming. Agnes stayed strong. She knew what to do.

She learnt about malaria from her local volunteer health worker, trained by Women and Children First. "I decided to bring Miriam to the hospital. My baby was admitted in the ward and treated with injections. **She's now alive and playing well!**"



"I know other mothers who had malaria in pregnancy, suffering a miscarriage. I am scared others will suffer, that my family will suffer again. The rains are still so heavy."

The strength mothers like Agnes show in the face of such adversity is incredible and inspirational. But they need help and support to overcome the problems, with malaria on the rise – going off the charts at times.

A donation of £30 could help train another volunteer health worker. You can donate to support the training of more health workers at wcf-uk.org/donate

