I **Read the following article:**



Nets help cut malaria in Africa

The United Nations has reported that great progress is being made in the fight against malaria in Africa. The UNICEF website says the area that is making the most dramatic improvement is sub-Saharan Africa. This is the region hardest hit by the disease. One of the biggest reasons for these gains against the killer infection is the increased use of special insect nets. This simple solution can reduce child deaths by as much as 20 percent. The report says the number of children using the insecticide-treated nets has tripled since 2000. UNICEF's Executive Director Ann Veneman said: "Controlling malaria is vital to improving child health and economic development in affected countries...Studies show that malaria [unfairly] affects the poorest people in these countries, and...contributes to their [poorer living conditions]."

UNICEF prepared the report together with the Roll Back Malaria Partnership. This organisation is a collaboration of aid agencies launched in 1998 to help fight malaria. Its vision is that by 2015, malaria "is no longer a major cause of mortality and no longer a barrier to social and economic development". The report also provides a healthy picture of the use of drugs in reducing the number of malaria cases. Since 2003, national health programmes have invested heavily in buying anti-malarial drugs called ACTs. UNICEF's health chief Pater Salama is optimistic and says the future looks bright. He reports: "With the strong backing of some of the international donors and the price of ACTs starting to be reduced, I think governments are becoming more confident now that this will be a sustainable strategy for anti-malaria treatment."

II **Press TRUE or FALSE in the following statements:**

a.	Malaria is being reduced fastest in the very north of Africa.	TRUE FALSE
b.	A key weapon in the fight against malaria is the mosquito net.	TRUE FALSE
c.	The use of these insect nets has increased by 30% since 2000.	TRUE FALSE
d.	Malaria hits the poorest people and worsens their living standards.	TRUE FALSE
e.	UNICEF's vision is to wipe out malaria by 2015.	TRUE FALSE
f.	A UNICEF report says anti-malarial drugs are proving ineffective.	TRUE FALSE
g.	Governments in Africa are refusing to buy anti-malarial drugs.	TRUE FALSE
h.	UNICEF's health chief paints a rosy picture for Africa's future.	TRUE FALSE

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