

La Toile

WHO/AFRO Malaria Newsletter

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EDITORIAL

Malaria is beginning to be rolled back in Africa, hopefully setting the stage for big gains in the years ahead.

Still, according to World Malaria Report 2008, the disease kills more than 800 000 Africans every year essentially children under five years of age.

African governments and their development partners have been working together and are re-focusing on stemming malaria disease and deaths.

This newsletter, La Toile (in English, The Net), is debuting this last quarter of 2009, and will strive to bring you news and information about malaria prevention and control activities in our Region, as we embark on bold strides for accelerated Malaria Control towards the ultimate goal of elimination.

Your contributions to the development and diffusion of this newsletter are welcome.

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Global Health Leaders in Africa Focus on Progress Against Malaria

WHO Director-General, Dr. Margaret Chan, Mr. Ray Chambers, the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Malaria, and Dr. Tachi Yamada, President of the Global Health Program at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, in August paid a visit to Tanzania and Uganda to review the progress that has been made in malaria control and to better



understand the remaining challenges in areas with high levels of malaria.

The WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Luis G. Sambo, was part of the delegation during the visit to Tanzania.

While in both countries, the leaders visited urban and rural health centers focused on fighting malaria, and held discussions with local malaria experts. While in Tanzania, Dr Chan and Mr. Chambers met with the country's President, Mr. Jakaya Kikwete. The trip afforded the team an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the progress made and the challenges that remain towards achieving malaria goals.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works in developing countries focusing on innovative ways to improve people's health including by funding research and development.

Mr. Chambers is a philanthropist and humanitarian, and since February, 2008, has been serving as the United Nations Secretary-General's first Special Envoy for Malaria.

Malaria: Moving From Prevention and Control to Elimination



The WHO Regional Committee for Africa has endorsed proposals by the Regional Director, Dr Luis Sambo, on measures countries should take to accelerate implementation of malaria control interventions with a view to achieving

eventual elimination of the disease in the Region.

Dr Sambo's proposals were contained in a report he presented to the just concluded 59th session of the Regional Committee which took place from 31 August to 4 September in Kigali, the Rwandan capital.

The proposals outlined by Dr Sambo include: the strengthening of national malaria control programmes; strengthening procurement and supply management systems for the supply of quality antimalarial commodities, and the acceleration of delivery of key interventions for universal coverage and impact.

Other measures contained in his report are the updating of malaria policies and strategic plans; the consolidation of malaria control gains in high endemic countries; strengthening malaria research, surveillance, monitoring and evaluation, and moving from control to pre-elimination and elimination stages when appropriate.

"A rapid decline in malaria burden is possible when a comprehensive package of malaria prevention and control is implemented in the same geographic area at the same time, as has been shown in Botswana, Eritrea, Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa and Swaziland," Dr Sambo indicated in the report.

Globally, Africa carries the heaviest burden of malaria, accounting for 86% of the 247 million malaria episodes, 91% Global malaria deaths, and between 20% and 45% of all outpatients consultations and hospital admissions.

ECOWAS Unveils 6-year Plan to Fight Malaria

The West African Health Organization, a specialised agency of the ECOWAS Commission, is working on a strategic plan covering 2009 to 2013 to fight malaria in the sub-region, the president of the Commission, Dr Mohammed ibn Chambas said on August 5 in Abuja.

Dr Chambas made the statement at the flag off ceremony of the 'Stop The Mosquito Campaign', a programme aimed at ridding the vast West African country of more than 150 million people of malaria.

The campaign, organized by the vector control unit of Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Environment in collaboration with private sector partners, is in line with the commitment of the ECOWAS ministers of health to deploy all resources at their disposal to prevent and control malaria, achieve universal coverage, and reduce malaria cases and deaths with the ultimate aim of eliminating the disease.

In 2000, African Heads of State and Government in adopted the Abuja Declaration and Plan of Action to Roll Back Malaria.

(See Page 4 for the full text Resolution of the Meeting)

Obama's \$63B Global Initiative

United States President Barack Obama has proposed a \$63 billion six-year global health initiative as part of his 2010 fiscal year budget, according to reports published in Washington.

The reports said that President Obama's plan calls for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to receive \$51 billion over six years to fight HIV, tuberculosis and malaria, while the remaining \$12 billion would be directed to other global health problems, including pre- and post-natal care and child health initiatives. Obama's proposal would increase spending during the 2010 financial year on global HIV, TB and malaria to \$7.4 billion, \$366 million more than in 2009.

"We cannot fix every problem," Obama said in a statement published on his website. "But we have a responsibility to protect the health of our people, while saving lives, reducing suffering, and supporting the health and dignity of people everywhere"

Earlier this year in a statement to mark World malaria Day, President Obama said: "In Africa, where the disease burden is the greatest, many countries are making dramatic gains in reducing the terrible burden of malaria, particularly for the benefit of those most vulnerable, so that malaria is no longer an intractable fact of life. Today, I recommit to work with our partners in this fight."



African Countries Take Stock of Their Malaria Prevention and Control Activities

Malaria-endemic countries from West, Central, East and Southern Africa held review and planning meetings in July and August to discuss and plan the way forward for preventing and controlling malaria. Mr. Alan Court, Senior Advisor to Mr. Ray Chambers, the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy on Malaria, attended and made valuable contributions to the three meetings.

Central African Countries Take Stock of Malaria Control Efforts

National Malaria Control Programs from ten Central African states gathered in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, from 24 to 28 August to review their strategy for accelerating malaria control. Participants reviewed progress made in 2009, and identified the key areas where assistance will be needed to reach the 2010 universal coverage target

More than 50 representatives from governments, multilateral and research organizations, the private sector and the donor community participated in the conference co-organized by WHO and the RBM's Central African Network under the hospices of the Government of Equatorial Guinea.

The meeting recommended that countries utilize all funding opportunities to scale-up universal coverage with LLINs by end 2010, strengthen surveillance, monitoring and evaluation systems and address Malaria control in complex emergency situations. Partners were invited to put in place mechanisms for timely monitoring of country progress and to contribute to a mid-term review of country roadmaps.



Brief on the Windhoek Review and Planning Meeting for East and Southern Africa

This meeting was held from 6 to 7 July, just one and half years to the internationally-agreed 2010 Universal Coverage targets. The two-day meeting was timely as it afforded countries the opportunity to review country progress towards the targets and assess which countries were on track to achieve the targets, and which would need additional partner support to achieve them.

It focused on reviewing programme implementation progress, and support that may be required by countries for the development of an operational plan and a "road map" for the achievement of the Coverage Targets. Input from this forum is already informing the development of the 2010-2011 WHO and RBM Partnership Workplan.

Delegates came from Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Comoros, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan (North and South), Swaziland, Tanzania (including Zanzibar), Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

National Malaria Control Programme Managers, Vector Control Officers and Health Promotion Officers, WHO Country Office National Professional Officers and representatives of the Global Fund were also invited to the Windhoek meeting.

The mix of participants facilitated planning and discussions on developing the 2010 roadmap including technical support needs, such as LLIN distribution strategies, access to, and use of, malaria control interventions, and the necessity to expedite Global Fund disbursements and/or reprogramming grants to meet targets.

Countries in West Africa Develop a Roadmap for Reaching the 2010 Malaria Targets

Malaria control programme managers from 16 West African malaria-endemic countries and RBM supporting partners met from 3-7 August in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, to review country programme implementation and develop a roadmap for achieving the 2010 Malaria Targets. The output of this meeting will feed into the 2010-2011 WHO and RBM Partnership work plans.

The meeting called for the roll-out of quality case management and diagnostic interventions, monitoring of drug and insecticide resistance and impact of programmes. Partners were requested to support communication and social mobilization strategies in order to increase utilization of cost-effective intervention by affected communities and to provide assistance for resource mobilization and health systems strengthening.



RESOLUTION ON MALARIA

**AT THE 10TH ASSEMBLY OF THE WEST AFRICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
Held in Yamoussoukro, 23-24 July 09**

Recalling

- The commitment undertaken by African Heads of State and Government, meeting in Abuja, Nigeria in 2000, to meet the indicators for the Roll Back Malaria Partnership in Africa, which aim to reduce the burden of disease by 50% (number of cases and deaths) by 2010
- The objectives of the Global Action Plan for Malaria Control adopted by all endemic countries and partners
- The call made by the United Nations Secretary-General on World Malaria Day (25 April 2008) for universal coverage in Africa by 2010
- The consultation between African Health Ministers at the special session of the RBM Board in Geneva, in May 2009, during which they committed to accelerate the scaling up of malaria control interventions in endemic countries in order to achieve the 2010 target
- The pivotal role of WAHO in the sub-regional West African Regional Network of the RBM Partnership
- The considerable progress achieved in the past few years in the global fight against malaria in terms of coverage of the different interventions, including the distribution of long lasting insecticide-treated nets , indoor residual spraying and access to effective drugs

ECOWAS Health Ministers welcome the technical and financial support from Partners in the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, in particular the WHO, UNICEF, the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis, the World Bank, Islamic Development Bank, PMI and bilateral agencies, but are aware that myriad challenges still need to be addressed to meet the 2010 and 2015 targets

undertake to:

- Keep malaria high on the world development agenda
- Develop a harmonised Operational Plan within ECOWAS to scale up efforts during the 524 days remaining until the 31 December 2010 target
- Make efficient use of financial resources mobilised by countries
- Support and ensure local production of malaria drugs, commodities and products to fight malaria
- Measure current progress and resolve obstacles that are identified during implementation of the ECOWAS operational plan
- Strengthen health systems, in particular, human resources and the supply and information systems, to ensure sustainability of outcomes
- Sustain advocacy efforts to achieve the 15% allocation to health in national budgets
- Encourage and support vector control

ECOWAS Health Ministers today issue an appeal to the entire international community to fight, eliminate and, eventually, eradicate malaria.

ECOWAS Health Ministers urge WAHO to better coordinate malaria interventions in the West Africa Region

Done at Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, this 24th day of July 2009 at the 10th Ordinary

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