



# ROLL BACK MALARIA PARTNERSHIP

## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Global Malaria Community Kick Starts Campaign to Secure Additional Resources

***Newly formed Harmonization Working Group convenes over 20 African countries to attract resources from Global Fund***

**DOUALA, April 2, 2007**—Roll Back Malaria, the global partnership to fight malaria, today launched a campaign to improve the quality of proposals from sub-Saharan African countries to the Global Fund. In 2006, just over one-quarter of all malaria control proposals submitted to the Global Fund from sub-Saharan African countries were considered worthy of financing by the Technical Review Panel, an independent expert panel assembled to assess the proposals. The newly formed RBM Harmonization Working Group, consisting of representatives from UN agencies, donors, civil society, foundations, and African countries, is leading the campaign, which began with training workshops in Nairobi, Kenya and Douala, Cameroon to help applicant countries with the proposal writing process. Countries will also be supported with proposal drafting, “mock” review panels, and further review by leading public health experts prior to the July 4, 2007 submission deadline.

*“Increased financial resources are clearly required for African Countries from the Global Fund, World Bank, US Government, and other partners to increase the intensity of malaria control efforts in Africa,”* said **Professor Awa Marie Coll-Seck, Executive Director of the RBM Partnership** at the launch of the Douala workshop. *“It is vital that countries do not miss the opportunity provided by the Global Fund’s call for proposals.”*

Chaired jointly by the World Bank and UNICEF, the Harmonization Working Group, was formed to focus exclusively on supporting and accelerating malaria control implementation at the country-level. In addition to the campaign to improve Global Fund application success, the Working Group is developing an early warning system to alert the malaria community when countries face challenges implementing their malaria control scale-up.

Over 90% of the world’s malaria deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa, where a child dies every 30 seconds of the mosquito-borne disease. With little over 3 years remaining to meet ambitious malaria control targets, an unprecedented number of African countries have embarked on aggressive implementation programs.

*“The process put in place by the Harmonization Working Group to assist countries to develop better proposals to the Global Fund is an example of how partners can work together for outcomes - - the time for talk is over,”* said **Dr Arata Kochi, Director of the World Health Organization’s Global Malaria Program**. *“While it is far too early to claim success, the World Health Organization welcomes this initiative to secure additional Global Fund resources, including for technical and implementation support.”*

Technical leadership of the process is being provided by the World Health Organization’s Global Malaria Program through its vast network of country offices, and participating African countries in the workshops were unanimous in their support for the activity. *“Our ambition is to improve our*

ROLL BACK MALARIA PARTNERSHIP SECRETARIAT

20, Avenue Appia • CH-1211 Geneva 27 • Switzerland

Tel : +41 (0)22 791 3920 • Fax : +41 (0)22 791 1587 • [inforbm@who.int](mailto:inforbm@who.int) • <http://www.rollbackmalaria.org>

*performance and deliver results,” said Urbain Olangena Awono, Honorable Minister of Health of Cameroon and Roll Back Malaria Board member. "As countries, we ask the Global Fund, World Bank Booster Program, US President’s Malaria Initiative and others to join us under the umbrella of the RBM Partnership to bring this devastating disease under control. For our part, we will be accountable for results, but from you we still need additional resources to continue making progress.”*

**For further information, please contact:**

**Pru Smith**

*Roll Back Malaria Partnership Secretariat*

[smithp@who.int](mailto:smithp@who.int)

mobile : + 41 79 477 1744

office : + 41 22 791 4586

**Suprotik Basu**

*Chair of the Harmonization Working Group*

[s.basu@worldbank.org](mailto:s.basu@worldbank.org)

mobile : + 1 443 629 4790

**Melanie Renshaw**

*Chair of the Harmonization Working Group*

[mrenshaw@unicef.org](mailto:mrenshaw@unicef.org)

+ 44 151 336 1776

+ 44 791 341 8874

**The Roll Back Malaria Partnership**

To provide a coordinated international approach to fighting malaria, the Roll Back Malaria Partnership (RBM) was launched in 1998 by the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank.

The Partnership now brings together governments of countries affected by malaria, their bilateral and multilateral development partners, the private sector, non-governmental and community-based organizations, foundations, and research and academic institutions around the common goal of halving the global burden of malaria by 2010.