

Multilateral Initiative on Malaria

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Roll Back Malaria Partnership

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ROLL BACK MALARIA PARTNERS CHALLENGED TO LOOK AT MALARIA FROM A GENDER PERSPECTIVE AS 5th FORUM KICKS OFF IN CAMEROON

Yaoundé, Cameroon 18 November 2005 — Ministers of Health, lead UN agencies, AIDS and malaria activists, non-governmental organizations, private sector and key malaria stakeholders, who gathered today at Forum V opening ceremony, were urged by Yvonne Chaka-Chaka, UNICEF Ambassador for malaria, to ensure that preventive and control measures reach women adequately to achieve sustainable impact in the fight against malaria.

Women and children are at greatest risk of contracting the disease, especially in Africa, where poverty has a greater impact on women than men and where women have less control over resources and decision-making process.

"It is critical that women at every level come together to create awareness of the magnitude of the problem and highlight the inequalities that impact women, as primary health care givers and sufferers of malaria," said Chaka-Chaka to the 400 participants attending the two-day event. "The integration of a gender perspective for effective malaria control is crucial," declared the South African celebrity.

"The gender perspective on malaria research and all areas of malaria control implementation has been neglected in the current global response to the disease mainly because there is little understanding of the gender aspect of malaria," said Dr Awa Marie Coll-Seck, Executive Secretary of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership.

The necessity of taking into consideration the social inequality status between men and women in the management of malaria has been driving the work of the Gender Malaria Network - the Multilateral Initiative on Malaria (MIM), Kvinnoforum and Femmes Solidarité Afrique. "Malaria contributors are grateful to see that Chaka Chaka is lending her voice to this network," added Dr Coll-Seck.

The Roll Back Malaria Partnership

To provide coordinated international approach to fighting malaria, the Roll Back Malaria Partnership (RBM - www.rollbackmalaria.org) 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 to rapidly scale-up implementation of malaria control and halve the global burden of malaria by 2010.

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or visit our pressroom at www.mim.su.se/conference2005/eng/pressroom.html.

For online registration please visit <http://www.rollbackmalaria.org/forumV/pressinfo.htm>.

You can also find information about malaria on the following links: The PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative: www.malariavaccine.org, Medicines for Malaria Venture: www.mmv.org and Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) World Health Organization: www.who.int/tdr

The conference organizers and the Kaiser Family Foundation, through its online news summary and webcasting service, kaisernetwork.org, are working together to bring online coverage of the conference to those unable to attend. [Kaisernetwork.org](http://kaisernetwork.org)'s comprehensive online coverage will include webcasts and transcripts of each day's plenary sessions and selected other sessions, text summaries of select sessions, and interviews with newsmakers. Slide presentations from select sessions will also be available. Access the coverage at <http://www.kaisernetwork.org/malaria2005>.