

Multilateral Initiative on Malaria

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Roll Back Malaria Partnership

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5th GLOBAL ROLL BACK MALARIA PARTNERSHIP FORUM OPENS IN YAOUNDE AS BATTLE AGAINST MALARIA GAINS MOMENTUM

Strategic Plan to Roll Back Malaria unveiled - a call to heightened action

Yaoundé, Cameroon 18 November 2005 – The Roll Back Malaria (RBM) Partners' Forum V opened today in Yaoundé to refocus global efforts to fight malaria and overcome the barriers which are hindering progress. Hosted by the Government of the Republic of Cameroon, the Forum was opened by the Prime Minister, Ephraim Inoni and the Minister of Health who also tasked the RBM Partners to strengthen their commitment to working together to achieve real impact.

"Today there is global recognition that this disease can and must be tackled as a matter of urgency," stated Mr Oluanguena Awono, Minister of Health, in his welcome address. "All of us have the collective responsibility to stop malaria claiming the lives of millions. We have the tools, there is increased funding - now we must act."

UNICEF Ambassador Yvonne Chaka Chaka, Assistant Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO) Dr. Anarfi Asamoah-Baah, and AIDS activist Milly Katana were among those who urged the assembled Ministers, representatives of lead UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, communities and key malaria stakeholders to use the current momentum to combine forces and accelerate scale up of malaria control.

Forum V, the first global Roll Back Malaria Partners meeting since its overhaul in 2003, will identify areas where the global malaria response - integrated vector control management; timely effective treatment and research into new tools - must be improved dramatically to fully support and respond to the needs of at-risk-populations, particularly children, pregnant women, people living in emergency situations, and people living with HIV/AIDS.

"It is crucial that we identify and remove the barriers and bottlenecks undermining current efforts to roll back malaria and that we harmonize our support to avoid duplicating initiatives that end up placing more burden on countries," declared Professor Eyitayo Lambo, Minister of Health of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chair of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership Board.

Discussions at Forum V will centre on the implementation of the recently published first Global Strategic Plan 2005-2015 to Roll Back Malaria which charts the way forward to intensify scale-up interventions and achieve 2010 and 2015 targets.

The key recommendations of Forum V will be synthesized in the Yaoundé Call to Action; a commitment by all partners and stakeholders to ensure coordinated, harmonized and intensified activities over the next ten years.

The Yaoundé Call to Action will be delivered by His Excellency Paul Biya, President of the Republic of Cameroon, during the closing ceremony on Saturday 19 November at the Palais des Congrès.

The Forum

The RBM Partnership's operating framework identifies the Forum as an assembly of all constituencies of RBM partners - malaria-endemic countries, multilateral development partners, OECD donor countries, private sector, NGOs and community-based organizations, foundations, research and academic institutions, Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria - and is the ultimate coordinating body of the Partnership. It meets to debate, endorse, and adopt the RBM Partnership's long-term vision and goals, and to appraise progress.

Background

The year 2005 is a milestone year for the Roll Back Malaria Partnership. In April 2000 at the Abuja Summit, African heads of state committed themselves, and their governments, to reach the RBM objective of halving the burden of malaria by 2010. They set interim targets to assess progress by 2005. In Africa, some countries have been able to successfully implement comprehensive

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treatment and prevention strategies and reach at least some of the targets set in Abuja. It is clear, however, that there is much more work to be done to remove the obstacles that continue to hamper progress and place an unacceptable burden on health and economic development in over 100 countries across the world.

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>.