



# MALARIA ADVOCACY WORKING GROUP: PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

*May 2009 RBM Partnership Board Meeting*

## **Progress**

- One chair per region: Bonnie Gillespie for the U.S., Djiba Diallo for Africa, and Aude Galli for Europe
- MAWG “Core Group” meeting in February 2009: clarification of the role of the MAWG, three key priorities defined, joint work plans developed, list of focal points created, etc.
- Call every two weeks to share information and identify joint opportunities
- Coordination and joint actions around GFTAM replenishment, World Malaria Day (key messages, global event coordination and information-sharing)
- ‘Africa’ MAWG currently being formed to strongly link advocates in endemic countries

## **Challenges:**

- **Towards the Board**
  - No direct link between the MAWG and the Board or Executive Committee
  - Lack of coordination for northern/ southern NGO and Research delegations, which should be MAWG members primary sources of information (both North and South), thus no chance for advocates to review the documents prior to Board meeting
- **Towards the Secretariat and in developing the 2010-2011 RBM Partnership Workplan**
  - Lack of Secretariat support – internal priorities often overshadow essential MAWG support, such as listserv moderation and overall information dissemination
  - Communication Working Group and Resource Mobilization Task Force remain unformed and inactive and both would be linked to MAWG activities and success
  - Tasks in the Harmonized Workplan for the MAWG were initially developed without consultation of the Chairs or core group members
- **Support to southern advocates: How to develop an ‘African’ MAWG?**
  - Southern advocates have very little support – no coordination mechanism for advocacy in the south, few opportunities to impact global-level decision-making (including RBM, Global Fund and others)
  - Malaria advocates in the south need stronger links and coordination with SRNs for overlapping priorities
  - Africa MAWG would need committed help with French/English translation to adequately and fully coordinate and function – perhaps by SRN or Secretariat would be possible?
  - To be fully functional outside funding is likely needed to fuel the MAWG Africa
  - Southern NGO representative is not actively engaged or sharing information with southern malaria advocates
- **Towards better coordination with R&D constituency**
  - Research and Academia have no clear “lead” partner to liaise with or agreed-upon messages, making it a difficult area for advocacy
- **Funding**
  - MAWG activities limited by lack of funding – infinitely more could be accomplished by the MAWG if it was not solely dependent on in-kind contribution of partners’ time.

## **MAWG CORE GROUP**

### **Core responsibilities of the MAWG**

1. Coordinating efforts and messages around select global malaria advocacy opportunities, which are identified as “key priorities” by the MAWG core group, a small group which is open to all active RBM Partners
2. Information-sharing through the MAWG listserv, regular conference calls, and other mechanisms;
3. Serving as an advocacy resource/counsel to address emerging needs and requests (i.e. connecting relevant Partners, providing feedback on strategies and materials that relate to advocacy, etc.)

### **3 key priorities of the MAWG for 2009**

A detailed work plan has been developed for each of these 3 priorities covering the first 6 months, to help guide our coordination and discussions as we move forward. A list of focal points is also available.

1. **Advocate for increased funding for malaria** / Value for Money, to reach the 2010 and MDGs targets
2. **Supporting efforts towards SUFI with advocacy** and “making the money work”  
Addressing needs to improve and share data, supporting and championing research and development, and advocating for the full roll-out of the GMAP;
3. **Increase awareness through World Malaria Day** –  
Developing key current messages based on the 2009 theme ‘Count Malaria Out’

## **AFRICA MAWG**

### **Core objectives:**

1. Information-sharing through the Africa MAWG listserv, monthly conference calls through Skype or other mechanisms
2. Identify connections/ linkages between communities, local/ national/ regional/ international levels
3. Serve as an advocacy resource/counsel to address emerging needs and requests (i.e. provide key asks/ figures to the MAWG Core Group on a regular basis; connecting relevant partners, providing feedback on strategies and materials that relate to advocacy, etc.)
4. Ensure a strong link with NMCP and SRN - RBM Secretariat
5. Select African malaria advocacy opportunities, to be identified as “key priorities” and develop coordinate efforts and messages (for instance the World Malaria Day).

### **Structure**

- Create an ‘**Africa MAWG**’ core group and a listserv, with SRN Dakar as a moderator (supported by Michel Smitall from the Secretariat). (Based on the previous MAMA Africa participants list to make sure all the malaria advocates will be informed).

- Regional focal points:

Djiba Diallo, VOICES Mali, for Western and Central Africa  
Michael Charles, IFRC, for Southern Africa  
Enid Wamani, MACIS and Uzo for Eastern Africa

The regional focal points will recommend partners and colleagues to be added to the list, including NMCP whenever it’s possible.

- Each Africa MAWG core group members will send their organization’s fields of expertise (LLINs, R&D, GFATM, ACTs, home-based management of malaria...) to the chair in order to develop a list of focal points and to improve information sharing and coordination.

- The chair (supported by the regional focal points) is responsible to ensure a strong link between the Africa MAWG and the Core Group (a two-ways communication flow, sharing information and opportunities for both groups).