



PRESS RELEASE

THE ZAMBIA AND ZIMBABWE ANGLICAN CHURCH COUNCIL (ZAC) TRANS-ZAMBEZI CROSS-BORDER MALARIA INITIATIVE (TZMI) AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGIONAL NETWORK (SARN) FACILITATED A WORKSHOP FOR OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE TZMI BUSINESS PLAN IN VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE

VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE, 4 April, 2012: A workshop to develop an action plan to operationalize the Trans-Zambezi Cross-border Malaria Initiative Business Plan, was held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe on 4 November 2012. The workshop was jointly facilitated/coordinated by SARN Secretariat and the Zambia Anglican Church and funded by the JC Flowers Foundation (USA). The one day workshop was attended by the Zambia and Zimbabwe National Malaria Control Programs (NMCPs), provincial and district senior health officials, Zambia Anglican Church (ZAC) and SARN Secretariat.

The main objective of the one day workshop was to develop a conceptual framework for a Zambia and Zimbabwe Anglican Church Cross-border Malaria Initiative (ZAC) aimed at mobilizing support for operationalization of the TZMI Business Plan. The Specific objectives of the workshop were to:

- Review current cross border malaria activities between Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- Identify opportunities for ZACs engagement in Cross border malaria activities.
- Identify strategic next steps for ZACs Cross Border Initiative.

The workshop was preceded by an exploratory consultative meeting between the JC Flowers Foundation, the Zambia Anglican Church and the SARN Secretariat. The consultative discussion was attended by representatives of the Flowers foundation: Mr. Neville Isdell, Ms. Susan Larsen and Mr. Chris Flowers of the Isdell Flowers Foundation Cross Border Initiative: Mr. John Bridgeland (Malaria no More - UK): Mr David Pain (Christian Aid – UK), Dr Boniface Maket (Isdell Flowers Foundation Consultant) and Col. (Dr) Kaka Mudambo (Southern African regional Network - SARN Focal Point). The discussion centered on a brief update of the current status of the TZMI, Malaria Elimination Eight (E8) Initiative, role of cross-border initiatives in the Southern Africa target of malaria elimination in 4 countries by 2015, the Isdell Flowers Foundation and Anglican Church Malaria Cross-border Initiative, funding opportunities/resource mobilization and the importance of the one day workshop in shaping the next steps. The main outcome was that funding opportunities exist and these very much depend on justification of the importance of the TZMI accelerating malaria elimination in the E8 countries by 2015. The Isdell Flowers foundation is currently funding some activities (nets distribution, RDTs and ACTs) jointly with the Anglican Church and Nets for Life in the Trans-Kunene (TKMI)

region. ZAC have since 2006 been distributing nets in some districts including cross-border districts of Shesheke, Shangombo, Senanga and Mongu in Zambia. The ZAC expansion project now aims to include Livingstone and Kazungula (Zambia) and the Zimbabwe districts of Hwange and Binga and possible expansion to Kasane in Botswana.

ZAC' s main aim is to demonstrate the role of the Anglican Church in implementing Cross Border Malaria Prevention Initiative (CBMPI) and contribute 40% reduction in malaria incidence rate in the targeted districts.



Group Photo of the ZAC Trans-Zambezi Cross-border Initiative Workshop

The main outcomes of the one day workshop were:

1. The Isdell Flowers Foundation and the Zambia Anglican Church expressed their interest in funding the project as a step towards operationalization of the TZMI Business Plan.
2. The Zambia Anglican Church will enter into discussions with its counterparts in Zimbabwe and Botswana to ensure their participation.
3. A budgeted 4 district (target districts) action plan derived from the TZMI Business Plan will be developed and send to the Isdell Flowers Foundation for resource Mobilization. The action plan should indicate Gaps in the target districts to aid resource mobilization.



4. The ZAC Cross-border Initiative will be guided by the Elimination Eight (E8) Strategic Framework and Action Plan in order to support and accelerate malaria elimination in the region
5. The Strategies and objectives outlined in in the TZMI Business Plan will be accelerated to ensure its operationalization by:
 - **Reviewing** the degree of alignment among the target districts level practices.
 - **Harmonization** of national level policy guidance and data collection tools based on the SADC Malaria Strategic Frameworks and WHO recommendations.
 - **Reviewing** national and district level database and agree on harmonization of each data content and update as necessary.
 - **Synchronization:** of operations and activities through joint planning and launching of IRS campaigns, larviciding, BCC/IEC campaigns and distribution of Long Lasting Nets (LLINs).
 - **Mobilization of partnership:** by mapping existing partners and stakeholders as broadly as possible, organizing partners conference for buy-in, empowering communities and Conducting a comparative analysis of existing IEC /BCC practices across the focus districts and identify best practices and for scale-up.
 - **Coordination:** by setting up a project coordinating committee and plan for quarterly committee meetings. As agreed, the Secretariat will be based in Livingstone, Zambia.
 - Resource mobilization for the cross border coordination activities.

The participants agreed that establishment of the districts coordinating committee and Secretariat and provision of resources are immediate priorities. District level leadership, all stakeholders' participation and community level empowerment will be strengthened to ensure sustainability.

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