

PRESS RELEASE

WORLD MALARIA DAY EVENTS LAUNCHED IN LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA WITH THE THEME: “Invest in the Future” – Eliminate Malaria



Drs Mberikunashe (Zimbabwe), Chizema (Zambia) & EARN/SARN Coordinator, Brigadier General (Dr) Kaka Mudambo showing the 2015 WMD Banner

LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA, 25 April, 2015: The last World Malaria Day (WMD) event of the MDGs was commemorated in Livingstone, Zambia, the holiday Resort Town where the first WMD events were held in 2008. Participants included E8 countries: Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe, the Zambia Minister of Health Honourable (Dr) Joseph Kasonde (Guest of Honour), Swaziland Minister of Health/E8 Chair, Honourable Sibongile Ndlela-Simelani, the Southern Region Minister (Zambia), former Namibia Minister of Health/E8 Ambassador Dr Richard Kamwi, the Roll Back Malaria (RBM) Executive Director (Dr) Fatoumata Nafo-Traore, The Director Global Malaria Program (GMP) Dr Pedro Alonso, The Gates Foundation Director Dr Allan McGill, USAID, the WR-Zambia Professor Jacob Mufunda, Botswana and Namibia Ambassadors accredited to Zambia, the Permanent Secretary of MOH Zambia, ALMA represented by Dr Melanie Reinshaw and Samson Katikiti, RBM Secretariat (Dr James Banda), SARN represented by the co-chair Dr Joseph Mberikunashe and EARN and SARN coordinator, Brigadier General (Dr) Kaka Mudambo, CHAI, GHG-UCSF, PMI-Zambia and Zimbabwe, E8, Bayer, Anglican Church, Isdell Flowers Foundation, MACHA research centre, malaria program managers (Simon Kunene (Swaziland), Mulakwa Kamuliwo (Zambia) and Joseph Mberikunashe (Zimbabwe), Health

workers, communities, traditional leaders, Zambia military and police, school children and community health workers.

The WMD events in Livingstone started with a march/procession led by the Zambia Air Force Band and Drum Majorettes followed by the dignitaries and communities as they marched from the Civic Centre to the Centre Park where the events took place.



The start of the march



On the march



The Drum Majorettes



Zambia Air Force brass band

WHAT WAS SAID:

Dr Joseph Kasonde (Minister of Health – Zambia): “We have done it before and we can do it again” he was referring to the fact that Polio and other diseases have been eliminated and malaria too can be eliminated. Lets invest in the future by raising more resources, domestic and from every possible source and let us give the people/communities the tools to finish off malaria.

Honourable Siobngile Ndlela Simelani (Swaziland Minister of Health): The E8 is a mechanism for collaboration – as E8 Ministers, we will ensure that there is little or no room for business as usual or poor implementation, urgency shall be the order of the day, we need different solutions in different cross-borders and let us maximize on the available tools.

Dr Fatoumata Nafu-Traore the RBM Executive Director: Zambia has consistently demonstrated the power of partnership and political will. Your investment in malaria control resulted in treated bed nets, indoor spraying, test kits and treatment available nationwide. As we shift gear – from the Millennium Development Goals to the broader Sustainable Development Goals – and as we commemorate World Malaria Day for the last time under the theme *Invest in the Future, Defeat Malaria*, we must not forget the unfinished business of

the MDGs, the unmet targets - the populations still at risk and the continuing unnecessary deaths, suffering and loss of livelihood caused by malaria.



Drs Alonso, Nafu & Kamwi sharing a moment



Dr McGill, Hon Simelani and Dr Kasonde

Dr. Allan McGill (Gates Foundation): We now have a sense of optimism that “we can do it” – we can eliminate and the Gates Foundation will be there to support you. It is unacceptable that the most vulnerable among ourselves continue to bear the brand of the malaria burden.

Dr Pedro Alonso (GMP Director): We are moving into the era of SDGs and GTS, these tools will chart the way forward and WHO will provide technical support to the countries on how to implement and utilize the tools.

Dr Jacob Mufunda (WR-Zambia): We must strengthen our capacity for developing strategies and WHO will continue to provide technical guidance. In 2013, 33% of the households globally did not get LLINS, if we go at this rate, we will never achieve universal coverage.

Mr Samson Katikit (ALMA): “The Africa we want is an Africa free of Malaria.”- a quote from the Ethiopian Prime Minister during the launch of the ALMA 2030 Scorecard.

The WMD was a successful event attended by people from all walks of life. Poems songs and plays laden with malaria messages provided entertainment to the participants.



Songs, plays, poems and testing for parasites

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