



**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA**

**ORIGINAL: ENGLISH**

Fifty-sixth session

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 28 August–1 September 2006

Provisional agenda item 12

**MALARIA CONTROL IN THE AFRICAN REGION: EXPERIENCES AND  
PERSPECTIVES**

**Panel discussion: 31 August 2006**

**CONTENTS**

	<b>Paragraphs</b>
BACKGROUND .....	1–4
OBJECTIVES .....	5
EXPECTED OUTCOMES .....	6
PANELISTS .....	7
PRESENTATIONS .....	8–9
	<b>Page</b>
ANNEX: Provisional programme .....	3



## **BACKGROUND**

1. Malaria continues to exert a heavy toll on African populations, particularly children under the age of five years and pregnant women. Cost-effective tools and interventions for control are available, but coverage levels are still unacceptably low. Despite significant progress in the adoption of policies and strategies, development of implementation plans and availability of increased funding at country level, there is no significant impact on morbidity and mortality in most countries. In order to achieve Millennium Development Goal Number 6 as well as contribute to at least two other MDGs, there is a need to increase efforts at country, regional and global levels.

2. There are signs of hope from some countries, with indications of decline in overall child mortality, to which malaria control might have contributed significantly. At the recent Special Summit of African Union Heads of State, African leaders reviewed progress made so far, identified challenges and proposed solutions to the prevailing problems. The Heads of State and Government reiterated their commitment to fight malaria within the context of broader socioeconomic development and reaffirmed their resolution to halve the malaria burden by 2010.

3. The AU meeting concentrated on issues of availability of malaria-related commodities such as long-lasting insecticide-treated nets and artemisinin-based combination therapy; their high cost to the end user; and conflicting policies between free, subsidized or commercial distribution. Other issues include the weakness of health systems, including monitoring and evaluation systems, to deliver malaria control interventions, and poor use of research findings to inform policies which need to be addressed in order to accelerate the pace of implementation of malaria control interventions in the Region.

4. In light of the above, a panel discussion was organized for the fifty-sixth session of the Regional Committee in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

## **OBJECTIVES**

5. The objectives of the panel discussion on malaria are three-fold:

- (a) to share experiences and lessons learnt on the progress and challenges in the implementation of malaria control interventions in the African Region;
- (b) to identify opportunities for accelerated implementation of cost-effective interventions for malaria control;
- (c) to make recommendations to the Regional Director on the way forward for malaria control in the African Region.

## **EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

6. At the end of the panel discussion, the following expected outcomes would have been achieved:

- (a) endemic countries would have shared experiences and lessons learnt on progress to date and challenges to the implementation of malaria control interventions;

- (b) opportunities for accelerated implementation of cost-effective interventions would have been identified;
- (c) recommendations would have been made on the way forward for malaria control in the African Region.

## PANELISTS

7. The following experts were invited to make 5-minute presentations on specific areas of malaria control:

- (a) **Professor Oumar Gaye**, Senegal, MD, Professor of Parasitology at University Cheikh Anta Diop and Chairperson of the West Africa Network for Antimalaria treatment;
- (b) **Professor Wenceslas Kilama**, Tanzania, Managing Trustee of the African Malaria Network Trust (AMANET) and Executive Secretary of the Multilateral Initiative on Malaria (MIM);
- (c) **Professor Fred Binka**, Ghana, Professor of Public Health at the Ghana School of Public Health, Chairman of the INDEPTH Network and Manager of the Alliance for Malaria Clinical Trials;
- (d) **Dr Mark Grabowsky**, USA, MD, seconded to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC);
- (e) **Dr Rajendra Maharaj**, Republic of South Africa, MD, Deputy Director, Medical Research Council.

## PRESENTATIONS

8. The presentations are on implementation of new antimalarial treatment; scaling up insecticide-treated nets through integration with the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI); cross-border collaboration for malaria control; research; and monitoring and evaluation.

9. The proposed agenda for the panel discussion is attached.

**ANNEX**

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

**Chair: Minister of Health, Zimbabwe**

1. Opening remarks and introduction of panelists, Chair (5 minutes)
2. Challenges of implementing artemisinin-based combination therapy, Dr Oumar Gaye (5 minutes)
3. Rapid scale-up of insecticide-treated nets coverage: Integration with Expanded Programme on Immunization, Dr Mark Grabowsky (5 minutes)
4. Cross-border collaboration: the Lubombo Spatial Development Initiative, Dr Rajendra Maharaj (5 minutes)
5. Research and malaria control, Dr Wenceslas Kilama (5 minutes)
6. Monitoring and evaluation of malaria control, Dr Fred Binka (5 minutes)
7. Discussions (85 minutes)
8. Conclusion and recommendations (5 minutes)