

Regional Committee for Africa - Seventy-second Session

Statement by RBM Partnership to End Malaria on Agenda Item 10: Framework for the integrated control, elimination, and eradication of tropical and vector-borne diseases in the African Region 2022-2030

Chairperson, Honorable Delegates, Regional Director,

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria commends WHO for the well positioned Framework for the integrated control, elimination, and eradication of tropical and vector-borne diseases in the African Region 2022-2030. One of the challenges in eliminating and eradicating malaria, a vector-borne disease of significant health and developmental significance, is insecticide resistance. Insecticide resistance remains one of the biggest threats in the fight against malaria, especially with the widespread resistance to pyrethroid insecticides seen in Africa.

There is, however, positive news. In 2021, for the first time, the majority (55%) of the mosquito nets procured by African countries were pyrethroids-PBO or next-generation, dual-active ingredient insecticide treated nets designed to address insecticide resistance. The almost 19 million dual insecticide nets were distributed as part of the new nets project, designed to generate the data required to allow WHO to recommend its widespread use.

Market shaping efforts must continue to ensure that these commodities are affordable. We are particularly keen to see these commodities manufactured on the continent of Africa, where the burden of malaria truly lies. This is essential for the sustainability of malaria control.

Innovation must also continue. Research is ongoing, such as using sugar baited traps; the Gene drives methodology to control mosquito populations or eliminate mosquito species, thereby reducing malaria cases and deaths.

Vector control will be one of the key drivers in ending malaria once and for all on the continent and ensuring we get back on track to achieve our established targets.

In many settings, we are clearly dealing with multiple vector-borne diseases. We also deal with global funding arrangements that focus on disease specific investments. It is our role as Africans to ensure that we find ways of making the most of these investments to serve our population's overall needs. Therefore, we must have an integrated response to vector borne diseases, from prevention, surveillance, case management, and broader development response. We must also keep an eye on the challenges and opportunities presented to us by our incredibly urbanizing population.

We in the RBM partnership are here to support all countries in this effort, alongside the World Health Organisation!

Thank you very much.