Challenges and Opportunities for Multi-Sectoral Action to control and eradicate Malaria and other vector-borne diseases

Dr Graham Alabaster
Chief of Sanitation & Waste Management, UNHABITAT
Malaria remains one of the world's worst health problems with 1.5 to 2.7 million deaths annually; these deaths are primarily among children under 5 years of age and pregnant women in sub-Saharan Africa. Of significance, more people are dying from malaria today than 30 years ago.

"2016 marked the first time in over two decades that malaria cases did not fall year-on-year despite huge efforts and resources, suggesting we need more tools in the fight.

We have also long been presented by the “experts” that a miracle cure is “just around the corner”
THE OBJECTIVES OF OUR MEETING

explore the necessary gaps in the design and delivery of integrated multi-sectoral approaches, building on the RBM multi-sector framework;

encourage a wider participation in malaria control and eradication from other relevant sectors, prioritizing the most important actors;

to promote successful models and design and implement new approaches to multi-sectoral projects and programmes;

To identify additional resources to support activities, both within existing programmes and in establishing new partnerships; and

Establish some priority regions/countries where political will is high and piggy-backing on existing initiatives is useful.
OUR MANDATES

Our work must align with the global mandates SDGs, GVCR, NUA, Paris agreement etc.

BUT enable these mandates to be “localised” and “contextualised”
SOME SUGGESTED THEMES

Enhanced engagement of community actors

Improving weak institutional structures at national and local level

Developing new tools to assess risk and assist in monitoring and surveillance

Identification of vulnerable populations in displaced communities due to natural disasters and conflict

Influencing increased investments

New approaches to Improved project design
A more effective review of past successes

Better understanding the impact of a new demographic changes brought about by urbanization and displaced populations. Malaria and other VB diseases do not recognise international and national boundaries.

In terms of application of existing tools (such as IRS and ITNs), there is a need to consider how the efficiency of their use can be enhanced through additional environmental control methods,

Developing project methodologies which establish a learning by doing approach. Community participation needs to go far beyond cosmetic approaches and be institutionalised in local authority systems.

Promoting the inclusion of VB disease control and eradication in school and tertiary education curricula

use structures and approaches from other sectors which can be re-purposed to support VB disease management.