

RBM PARTNERSHIP TO END MALARIA

MEETING REPORT

RBM Country Regional Support Partner Committee (CRSPC) Eastern Africa Southern Africa Sub-Regional National Malaria Programmes and Partners Annual Meeting, Kampala, Uganda: 3 – 6 October 2023



October 2023

Introduction

Eastern and Southern Africa National Malaria Programmes and Partners Annual Meeting 2023

The RBM/CRSPC in collaboration with partners and countries, held a 4 days Eastern and Southern African National Malaria Programmes and Partners Annual Meeting in Kampala, Uganda, from 3 - 6 October 2023, involving National Malaria Programs from 24 countries including Yemen (WHO HQ, AFRO and EMRO, UNICEF, USAID/PMI, BMGF, GFATM, ALMA, AMP, CHAI, PATH, IVCC, Zenysis South Africa, Safe Net (Uganda), MMV, PSI, IFRC, YHMC, WVUS, GLMI, SBCWG, VCWG, MSWG, I2I, UNITAID, Regional Economic Communities (EAC, IGAD and SADC). In addition CCMs, CSOs, Society for Family Health, Rwanda NGO FORUM, Rwanda Interfaith On Health Rich, Caritas Rwanda, Rwanda Development Organisation, Africa Constituency Bureau of GF Board, Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Malaria (UPF), Speak Up Africa (Uganda), Tropical Medicine Research Unit (India), Bridges to Development Switzerland, Sumitomo, PMI, PMI Evolve Project (Uganda), land Pro Femmes Twese participated virtually (Annex I). The event combined in-person and virtual participation, with 147 attendees on-site and 58 joining virtually.

Objectives of the Meeting

The main objective was to continue to engage National Malaria Programmes and partners to review the status of implementation of national malaria programmes strategic and annual plans, identify major implementation bottlenecks, share best practices and get updates on current malaria policy guidance and new developments. The specific objectives of the meeting were to:

- Update on the status of malaria implementation at country and sub-regional levels
- Identify malaria programme implementation bottlenecks, challenges, and proposed or implemented solutions
- Share best practices in malaria interventions
- Update on the country specific programmatic and financial gap analysis which will serve as tool for additional resource mobilization
- Get updates on the latest malaria policy guidance and new developments in malaria
- Get orientation training on the assessment of barriers to access malaria interventions (Equity, Human Rights, and Gender Equality) and the malaria matchbox toolkit
- Identify and prioritize the implementation support needed by countries in 2024

Meeting Methodology

The methodology of the meeting included:

- Technical updates from RBM and Partners
- Country presentations
- Breakout sessions on specific issues
- Orientation training on Community Rights and Gender /Malaria Matchbox
- Discussions and overall plenary sessions

The meetings were conducted in English with simultaneous interpretations to English, Spanish, French and Portuguese.

Presentations were made in plenary which were followed by discussions on technical updates, countries implementation achievements, best practices, challenges and technical assistance requirements as well as partners presentation. Side meetings were held with individual sub regions, partners, private sector and countries. In addition, the CEO had bilateral meetings with various partners including: WHO-Country Office, Uganda Parliamentary Forum for Malaria, IGAD, Ministry of Health and Deputy Speaker of Uganda Parliament.

Outcomes of the Meeting

Opening Session

The RBM CEO, Dr Michael Charles, welcomed the participants to the meeting and reminded the participants that the global malaria burden is heaviest in Africa and disproportionately affects the poor. He emphasized that the World is currently going through a "Perfect Storm" being caused by a multiple of factors: Biological threats, Climate and its impact on health, dwindling financing, insecurity and country level challenges. The cases are going up which is compounded by competing priorities and limited reserves with a 1.5 billion gap needed to sustain the current 3.8 billion. He outlined the need for fully funded Malaria Strategic Plans in order to strengthen Health Systems, data quality and surveillance including sub-national tailoring. He also outlined leveraging on opportunities such as the COP 28, AU 2024 Summit and the World Economic Forum - Davos. There is therefore an urgent need for strengthening the RBM partnerships, revitalizing the RBM team, strengthening implementation planning, Partner Committees and Working groups.

The meeting was officially opened by the Uganda Director of Public Health Dr Daniel Kyabayinze on behalf of the Minister of Health. He welcomed all present to the meeting. He said that the meeting was happening at a time when we are seeing an increase in

malaria cases and deaths in some countries attributed to the disruptions in malaria services.

He congratulated all for averting the worst case scenario that had been projected by the WHO and many in the malaria world, a doubling of malaria cases and deaths in Africa due to Covid-19 related service disruptions. He further said that we cannot ignore the continued threats to malaria control and elimination programmes caused by the persistent disruption in supply chain management and the increased cost of commodities. We have all experienced the rise in the cost of living that was happening globally which has affected the cost of malaria commodities in an environment where funding for malaria has decreased drastically as the Global Fund failed to raise the 18 billion dollars needed to sustain the fight against the three diseases without which we may default on the Sustainable Development Goal target of eliminating these three diseases by 2030. He further said that contributions from the Domestic sector (domestic Fund) has not been forthcoming but instead has decreased in most countries. As a result, we are being forced to be more efficient in our use of available resources.

The WHO Country Representative emphasized on the need for tackling the increasing insecticides resistance to first line treatment for malaria which is reducing effectiveness of the malaria rapid diagnostic kits and the imminent threat of Anopheles Stephensi which is likely to alter the epidemiology map of malaria if not contained.

The Overall Outcomes of the Meeting were:

- Engaged the National Malaria Programmes from almost all countries together with and partners and reviewed the progress, identified malaria programme. implementation bottlenecks, challenges, shared best practices.
- Shared lessons learned in the process of the implementation of High Burden to High Impact approach, and continental wide campaigns such as Zero malaria starts with me;
- Updated the status of commodities availability and preparedness for 2024;
- Updated the country specific programmatic and financial gap analysis which will serve as tools for additional resource mobilization including portfolio optimisation;
- Updated on the latest developments in malaria;
- Identified and prioritized the malaria program implementation bottlenecks for technical support during 2022/2023;
- Provided orientation on the countries applying for the next cycle of Global Fund application planning and support in 2024.

- Provided orientation training to National Malaria Programmes, partners, CCMs and CSOs on community rights and gender approach in malaria programming and the malaria matchbox tool;
- Updated on the Global Malaria Dashboards and the procedure to apply for TA online.
- Updated on the impact of climate change and the steps being taken to contain the perceived impacts.

Country Presentations

Status of Malaria

Malaria cases have shown a decreasing trend in Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia and Tanzania while cases have increased in South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda and Yemen.

Malaria deaths have shown a decreasing trend in Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia and Tanzania while increases in deaths have been noted in South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda and Yemen.

Status of Implementation of Malaria Strategic Plans

Most countries are on track to achieve the targets set in their MS, some countries expressed that they are not on track to achieve the targets set in MSP as a result of the complex operating environment in these countries. A number of key bottlenecks were raised including lack of resources to fully implement the national strategy, Climate change associated impacts such as flooding, implementation difficulties in complex emergency countries, and the ongoing threat of insecticide and drug resistance, dwindling financing from both external and domestic sources, including the emergence of Anopheles Stephensi in some countries.

Best Practices Shared

Some of the best practises shared were:

Rwanda: Drone-based Larviciding for targeted areas.

Tanzania: Establishing an End Malaria Council, made up of individual champions to strengthen a multi-sectoral collaboration. This was launched during WMD 2023 by the Prime Minister: This adds up to countries (Eswatini, Mozambique, Zambia,) that now have fully operational End Malaria Councils and Funds.

Eritrea: Involvement of Schools/students in larval habitat management and IEC/BCC effective: 100 selected schools involved and Mal/TB/HIV messages included in student exercise books.

Ethiopia: Village level stratification Vs Intervention targeting.

Yemen: Use of online daily electronic data report for the activities.

Technical Assistance Provided in 2023 and the needs for 2023/2024

The TAs planned for 2023 were provided to the programs as planned. These technical assistance needs included: All eligible countries were successfully supported to develop and submit their GF Funding Requests including Grant making/negotiation. Perhaps the most successful support was for Sudan which managed to successfully submit their GF Funding request under extremely difficult conditions. Support was also provided to address bottlenecks in planning for long lasting insecticidal net (LLIN) campaigns, conducting malaria programme reviews and developing national malaria strategic plans, and development of a behavior change communication (SBCC) strategies, resource mobilization, assessment of the High Burden High Impact approach, malaria gap analysis and costing, launch of Zero Malaria Starts With Me Campaign/EMFs/EMCs, CRG and Matchbox tool implementation, support for Regional Economic Commissions for development of regional strategic plans, situation analysis, assessment of cross-border collaboration /development of Cross-border Action Framework among others.

Policy Updates and Partners Presentations

The meeting also served as an opportunity for partners to hold different discussions in order to give updates to countries on the key priority areas and ongoing activities. The key updates from Partners include:

- Technical and policy updates from WHO.
- Updates on new tools and approaches in malaria prevention and control.
- Updates from the different RBM working groups and CRSPC workstreams.
- Update on the Global Fund application process and tools.
- Updates on the implementation of the Zero Malaria Starts with Me! Campaign
- Implementation of High burden and High impact approach.
- Updates from the regional economic communities.

Individual Regional and Country Consultation

Sudan

A side meeting was held between CRSPC, Sudan, GF, ALMA, and WHO during which an update was given on the current malaria situation in Sudan due to the current crisis and how support could be dovetailed to the isolated communities and also how the program could best coordinate its members who are currently scattered all over the country and

also in neighboring countries. During these discussions, their needs for support were identified and it was agreed that Sudan would share their TORs/concept note and budget for the support requested. Sudan was congratulated for the development and submission of their GF Funding request under extremely difficult conditions. It was agreed that Sudan NMCP and WHO-Country Focal points would provide suggested mechanisms of dovetailing support and maintenance of communication.

Next Steps (See Table 1 Below)

- Follow up with the organizations that were met in Kampala to ensure continuity.
- RBM CRSPC-ESA to follow up on the indicated TA support areas in particular those at IGAD.
- ESA to share experiences with the WCA before their meeting so that they build on the success observed in ESA.
- Plan for engagements during the SADC Health Ministers Meeting.
- Map out other potential engagements in Africa, SEA, AP, Caribbean and Latin America.
- Review the RBM engagement strategy and visibility campaigns.
- Intensify advocacy for Domestic Leadership for Domestic Resources and leverage on non-health sector resources.

Next steps & Follow-up

- Follow up on the finalization of country and regional support for 2023.
- Consolidate the 2024 countries TA Plan including the CRSPC-ESA travel Plan.
- Follow up the implementation of TAs requested by countries for 2024.
- Follow up on some of the suggestions and recommendations forwarded by countries;
- Prepare the remaining countries (Comoros and Eritrea) in their GF Funding Request in 2024 with regards to orientation meeting, gap analysis; and ensure bottlenecks are addressed to ensure the current GF grants are fully expended by the end of the current grant.

In conclusion: the meeting was a success in that it was well attended by both countries (all invited countries of the Eastern Africa sub-region) and partners and that the main objective of the workshop was achieved as shown in the Meeting Evaluation below.

Meeting Evaluation:

At the end of the meeting, the participants provided feedback on the logistics as well as the technical aspects of the meeting.

In general, the participants rated the meetings high in the scale of 1 lowest to 5 highest both logistical arrangements and technical aspects as indicated in the charts below.

In relation to the logistics arrangement, participants also indicated that the meeting room layout was not convenient enough for interactions.

Chart 1 - shows logistical evaluation

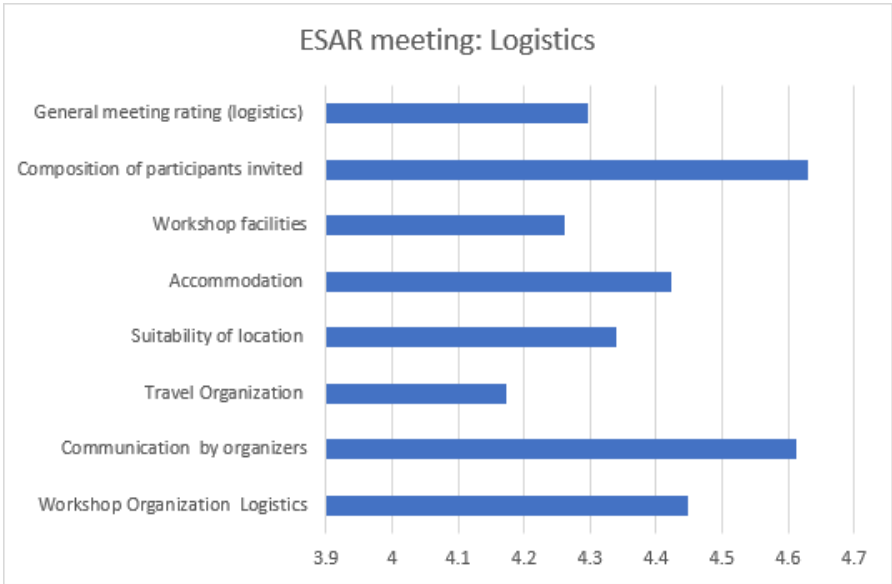
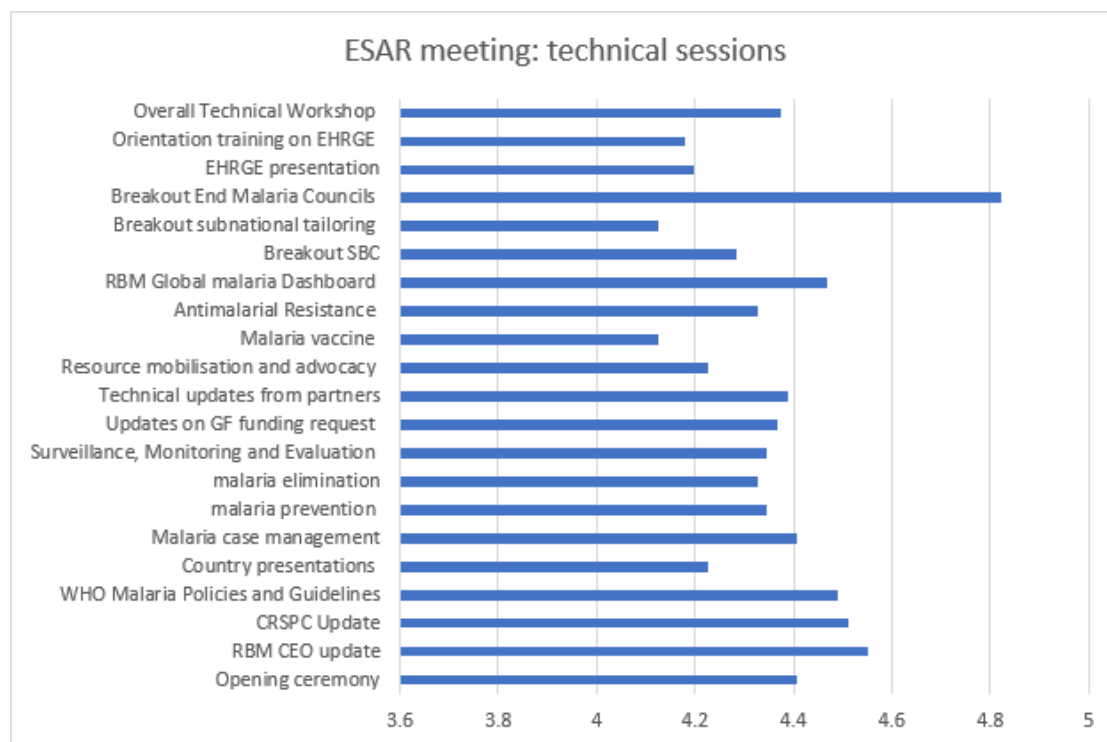


Chart 2 - shows technical evaluation



ANNEX I: Agenda of the meeting

Eastern and Southern Africa National Malaria Programmes and Partners Annual Meeting Uganda, Kampala, 03-06 October 2023

Day 1 (Tuesday 03 October 2023)

| Time | Details of Activities | Facilitator/Presenter | Moderator |
|--------------|--|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| A | Opening Ceremony and General Updates | | |
| 08:30 | Registration | Organisers | CRSPC |
| 09:00 | Start of the opening and Introduction of participating countries and Partners | CRSPC Manager | |
| 09:10 | Welcoming remarks | CEO, RBM Partnership | CRSPC |
| 09:15 | Welcoming remarks | WHO Country Representative, Uganda | CRSPC |
| 09:20 | Welcoming remarks | IGAD, EAC and SADC Representatives | CRSPC |
| 09:35 | Opening remarks | Hon. Minister of Health, Uganda | CRSPC |
| 09:40 | Agenda items, Objectives and outcomes of the meeting | CRSPC Co-Chairs | |
| 09:50 | Group Photo with Guests of Honour | Organisers | |
| 10:10 | Tea Break | Organisers | |
| 10:30 | RBM Partnership - positioning for the future | RBM CEO, Michael | |
| 11:00 | Discussion | | |
| 11:15 | Brief updates on the implementation support provided to countries through CRSPC in 2023 and the priority areas for 2024. | CRSPC Team | CRSPC Co-Chairs |
| 11:30 | General technical updates on WHO Malaria Policies and Guidelines | Peter Olumese (WHO GMP) | CRSPC Co-Chairs |
| 12:00 | Discussions | | |

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|--------------|---|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| 12:20 | Country status on MPR and revision of NSP | Ebenezer Baba (WHO/AFRO) | |
| 12:30 | Lunch Break | | |
| B | Brief updates from Countries on Programme Implementation Status - 24 countries | | |
| 13:30 | Uganda | Program Manager | CRSPC Co-Chairs |
| 13:40 | Kenya | Program Manager | |
| 13:50 | Ethiopia | Program Manager | |
| 14:00 | Discussion | | |
| 14:15 | Zimbabwe | Program Manager | |
| 14:25 | Namibia | Program Manager | |
| 14:35 | Mozambique | Program Manager | |
| 14:45 | Discussion | | |
| 15:00 | Eritrea | Program Manager | |
| 15:10 | Somalia | Program Manager | |
| 15:30 | Discussion | Program Manager | |
| 15:45 | Tea Break | | |
| 16:15 | Rwanda | Program Manager - <i>remote</i> | |
| 16:25 | Eswatini | Program Manager | |
| 16:35 | Djibouti | Program Manager | |
| 16:45 | Discussion | | |
| 17:00 | Small group discussion on strategy implementation plan 2024-2025 with NMCP managers | CRSPC Co-Chairs | Bridges (Sarah) |
| 18.00 | END of Day 1 | | |

Day 2 (Wednesday 04 October 2023)

| Time | Details of Activities | Facilitator / Presenter | Moderator |
|--------------|--|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| 08:30 | South Africa | Program Manager | |
| 08:40 | South Sudan | Program Manager | |
| 08:50 | Comoros | Program Manager | |
| 09:00 | Discussion | | |
| 09:15 | Zambia | Program Manager | |
| 09:25 | Yemen | Program Manager | |
| 09:35 | Angola | Program Manager | |
| 09:45 | Discussion | | |
| 10.00 | Tea Break | | |
| 10:30 | Zanzibar | Program Manager | |
| 10:40 | Malawi | Program Manager | |
| 10:50 | Madagascar | Program Manager | |
| 11:00 | Discussion | | |
| 11:15 | Burundi | Program Manager | |
| 11:25 | Tanzania | Program Manager | |
| 11:35 | Botswana | Program Manager | |
| 11:45 | Discussion | | |
| 12:00 | General discussion on the lessons learned, conclusion on country presentations | All | Co-chairs |
| 13:30 | Lunch Break | | |
| C | Technical updates on Malaria Case Management | | |
| 14:30 | Important policy issues in malaria case management | Peter Olumese (WHO/GMP) | |
| 14:40 | RBM CMWG updates on best practices | Noella Umulisa (CMWG) - <i>remote</i> | |

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|--------------|---|---|--|
| 14:50 | Updates on the Strategy to Respond to Antimalarial Resistance in Africa | Charlotte Rasmussen (WHO/GMP) - <i>remote</i> | |
| 15:00 | Plans for rolling out of the malaria vaccine | Mary Hamel & Rafiq Okine (WHO/GMP) - <i>remote</i> | |
| 15:10 | Implementation of IMNCI and the role of CHWs | Anne Detjen (UNICEF) - <i>remote</i> | |
| 15:20 | Antimalarial Medicines development pipelines | Adam Aspinall (MMV) | |
| 15:30 | Updates on the research in process on Development of Triple ACTs | Mahidol-Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (DeTACT project) | |
| D | Technical Updates on Malaria Prevention | | |
| 15:40 | Updates on the New promising vector control tools and <i>An stephensi</i> | Seth Irish (WHO) - <i>remote</i> | |
| 15:50 | Planning and execution of ITNs mass campaigns | Giovanni Dusabe (AMP) | |
| 16:00 | The role of ITN campaign digitisation | Giovanni Dusabe (AMP) | |
| 16:10 | Tea Break | | |
| 16:20 | RBM VCWG update on best practices | VCWG | |
| 16:30 | Vector Control commodity and intervention development pipeline | Andrew Saibu (IVCC) | |
| 16:40 | Updates on malaria chemoprevention | Peter Olumese (WHO/GMP) | |
| 16:50 | RBM MiPWG update on best practices | Julie Gutman (MiPWG) - <i>remote</i> | |
| 17:00 | Discussion | | |
| E | Malaria Elimination | | |
| 17:10 | Guidance on Malaria Elimination | Elkhan Gasimov (WHO/GMP) - <i>remote</i> | |
| 18:30 | END of Day 2 | | |

Day 3 (Thursday 05 October 2023)

| Time | Details of Activities | Facilitator/Presenter | Moderator |
|--------------|--|---|-----------|
| F | Surveillance, Monitoring and Evaluation | | |
| 08:00 | Burundi | Program Manager | |
| | Botswana | Program Manager | |
| | Tanzania | Program Manager | |
| | Sudan | Program Manager | |
| 08:50 | RBM SMERG updates on best practices | Molly Robertson (SMERG) | |
| 09:00 | Updates on the SME guidances | Dr Ryan Williams (WHO) - <i>remote</i> | |
| 09:10 | Sub-National Tailoring | Beatriz Galataz (WHO) SNT taskforce - <i>remote</i> | |
| 09:20 | Discussions | | |
| 09:30 | RBM Global Malaria Dashboard | Dashboard team | |
| 09:40 | Discussion on dashboard | | |
| G | General Technical Updates | | |
| 09:50 | The GF funding requests for GC7 and wayforward Portfolio optimisation, emergency fund and reprogramming GF | Patrick Okello (Global Fund) | |
| 10:30 | Tea Break | | |
| 11:00 | EHRGE barriers to access malaria interventions | Alistair Shaw (Global Fund) | |
| 11:10 | Updates on the PMI | Stefanie Evans (PMI) - <i>remote</i> | |
| 11:30 | Updates from ALMA | Samson (ALMA) | |
| 11:40 | Updates from UNITAID | Dale Halliday (UNITAID) - <i>remote</i> | |
| 11:50 | Discussion | | |

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|--------------|--|---|-----------------|
| 12:30 | Lunch Break | | |
| H | Resource Mobilisation and Advocacy | | |
| 13:30 | Access to the World Bank IDA fund | | |
| 13:40 | Establishing End Malaria Funds | Stephen (ALMA) | |
| 14:00 | Advocacy and resource mobilisation opportunities | Jessica (CReMA/ARMPC) | |
| 14:30 | Discussions | | |
| 15:00 | Zero malaria starts with me campaign roll out | David Mulabi (Speak Up Africa) | |
| 15:10 | RBM SBCWG updates on best practices | Mariam Wamala (SBCWG) | |
| 15:20 | RBM MSWG updates on best practices | Peter Mbabazi (MSWG) | |
| 15:30 | Tea Break | | |
| 16:00 | Implementation of HBHI approach | Maru Aregawi Weldedawit (WHO) - <i>remote</i> | |
| 16:20 | Discussions | | |
| 16:30 | Demonstration on MagicApp - WHO Malaria Guideline | Saira Stewart (WHO) - <i>remote</i> | |
| 17:00 | Small group discussion on strategy implementation plan 2024-2025 with RBM Partners | CRSPC Co-Chairs | Bridges (Sarah) |
| 17:30 | END of Day 3 | | |

Day 4 (Friday 06 October 2023)

| Time | Details of Activities | Facilitator/Presenter | Moderator |
|--------------|--|------------------------------|------------------|
| 08:00 | Breakout sessions: Sub-Regional perspectives of malaria and best practices in Cross-border coordination and collaboration (SADC EAC and IGAD) | EAC, IGAD, SADC | CRSPC |
| 10:30 | Tea Break | | |

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|--------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| 11:00 | Breakout sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation on SBCC tools, • Hands on guidance on SNT, • Lessons on establishing EMC | SBCWG WHO ALMA (plenary Room) | |
| 12:30 | Lunch Break | | |
| 13:30 | Orientation training on Community, Rights and Gender and use of Malaria Matchbox toolbox for assessment of barriers to access malaria interventions. | GF EHRGE, RBM | |
| 16:00 | Closing the meeting - Summary of the key points, recommendations, the way forward and workshop evaluation. | CRSPC Co-chairs | |
| 16:30 | END of Workshop | | |

ANNEX II: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Please find here the final list of participants [List of Participants - ESA meeting 3-6 Oct 2023](#)