

# Celebrating 2 years of Zero Malaria Starts with Me movement in Africa

2 July marked the 2nd anniversary of **Zero Malaria Starts with Me**, the pan-African movement to strengthen national, regional and continental efforts towards a malaria-free Africa.

Co-led by the African Union Commission and the RBM Partnership to End Malaria, Zero Malaria Starts with Me sparks grassroots movements by engaging political leaders at all levels, mobilizing resources and funding, including from the private sector, and empowering communities to take ownership of malaria efforts and hold leaders accountable in the fight against malaria. With 15 countries mobilized so far, and as COVID-19 threatens to undo global progress against malaria, it is more important than ever that the continent unites to accelerate progress towards zero malaria.

**The RBM Partnership to End Malaria will host a full briefing on how the Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign has influenced policy in Africa tomorrow (14 July) at 16:00 CEST\*.**

**Register for the session [here](#).**

**Please note this briefing will be held in French.**

\*14:00 GMT, 15:00 WAT, 16:00 CAT, 17:00 EAT



## Ecobank spearheads new private sector initiative

- The newly-launched **Zero Malaria Business Leadership Initiative**, led by pan-African commercial bank Ecobank, the RBM Partnership and advocacy-tank Speak Up Africa, seeks to boost engagement from Africa's private sector in the fight against malaria
- This initiative provides an opportunity for businesses to protect their local communities from malaria and support local economic growth by advocating for stronger political will, increased funding, and more targeted malaria elimination responses

## Zero Malaria Starts with Me movement adopted in 15 countries since 2018





## Spotlight on Burkina Faso

- Burkina Faso has today launched its national seasonal malaria chemoprevention (SMC) campaign, delivering preventive treatment to children under 5 ahead of the rainy season despite the challenges presented by COVID-19.
- The campaign will be implemented in 70 districts across Burkina Faso thanks to key technical partners: the Global Fund (33 districts), Malaria Consortium (23 districts), PMI (12 districts) and UNICEF (2 districts).
- This year, several changes have been made to update the training and planning processes, and provide new health and safety equipment including PPE and hand gel. Notably, unlike previous campaigns, the first dose of treatment will be administered by a child's caregiver under the supervision of health workers.

## What is seasonal malaria chemoprevention (SMC)?

- SMC is among the suite of key anti-malaria interventions recommended by WHO, in addition to the use of insecticide-treated bed nets (ITNs), indoor residual spraying (IRS), and Intermittent Preventive Treatment in pregnancy (IPTp).
- Giving effective antimalarial treatment at monthly intervals during the rainy season has been shown to be 75% protective against uncomplicated and severe malaria in children under 5 years of age.



## To avoid doubling of malaria cases from COVID, countries are acting quickly and safely

- On 3 July, the Malaria Consortium reported that **12 million children under five** will receive life-saving protection from malaria as it prepares to deliver its **seasonal malaria chemoprevention (SMC)** programme across Burkina Faso, Chad and Nigeria
- On 2 July, the National Malaria Elimination Programme (NMEP) of Zambia, PATH, and other key partners **reported** on the safety, feasibility and impact of mass drug administration (MDA) as an additional tool for malaria elimination
- On 23 June, the **SADC Elimination 8 (E8)** met to address regional upsurges of malaria. During the meeting, members made bold commitments to support malaria programming efforts and ensure preparedness for the next transmission season, committing to driving political advocacy and advocating for increased domestic resources
- On 24 June, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria estimated that, in response to COVID-19, **US\$28.5 billion** is needed to protect the past two decades of progress in countries affected by these three diseases



## Resources:

- COVID-19 is threatening to **double malaria cases** this year – click here for a **country by country modeling analysis** of potential impact of COVID in sub-Saharan African
- Check the status of anti-malaria campaigns in your country with our **country tracker**
- WHO updated Q&A on use of **hydroxychloroquine** and **artemisia**
- RBM Partnership to End Malaria COVID-19 and malaria **resource page**
- **Recording of the RBM Partnership's previous media briefing on COVID-19**



## What's coming up?

- 14 July:** 3rd RBM Partnership to End Malaria **media briefing** – Private sector leadership in the fight against malaria (briefing held in French)
- 15 July:** Rotarian Malaria Partners webinar: **Malaria's Rising Toll in the COVID shadow**
- 28 July:** 4th RBM Partnership to End Malaria media briefing – How are countries managing through the rainy season? (briefing held in English)
- 20 August:** World Mosquito Day