



PRESS RELEASE

UAE Crown Prince Announces New Commitment to Global Malaria Elimination

[18 September 2017] (GENEVA) – His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and longstanding supporter of humanitarian causes, today announced a new US\$5 million commitment to the Roll Back Malaria (RBM) Partnership. The three-year contribution will be pivotal to the Partnership’s efforts to reduce the burden of malaria and save lives around the world.

“The UAE has long played an essential role in supporting progress against some of the world’s most devastating diseases, and we’re pleased to deepen our collaboration in the fight against malaria,” said Dr. Kesete Admasu, CEO of the RBM Partnership. “The health investments made by global leaders like the Crown Prince have proven to be, and will remain, critical to building a healthier world.”

The UAE’s continuing financial support has allowed the RBM Partnership to advocate for resources needed to scale-up malaria control and elimination efforts and maintain investments to develop new tools that will accelerate progress toward elimination. Further, as a malaria-free country, the UAE is able to offer its knowledge and expertise in stopping transmission of the disease.

“There has been a remarkable decline in malaria cases and deaths over the past 15 years but more can be done to protect children and families from this disease and advance efforts to end it,” said H.E. Professor Maha Taysir Barakat, Director General of the Health Authority Abu Dhabi and RBM Board Member. “We’re proud to support the important work of the RBM Partnership in moving closer to a malaria-free world.”

Scaled up malaria interventions, increased funding and focused leadership have driven significant progress against malaria since 2000, helping to save nearly seven million lives and prevent over one billion malaria cases. Yet, malaria continues to exact a heavy toll on communities and families. A child dies from the disease every two minutes and nearly half the world’s population remains at risk.

The world has set ambitious targets to help accelerate progress and save more lives. This includes eliminating malaria in 10 additional countries by 2020 – a goal that is achievable, but only with increased funding and new steps to ensure effective interventions reach those who need them most.

“We welcome the UAE’s renewed commitment to the RBM Partnership and its representation on the Board, and look forward to continuing to advance our shared goal of improving lives everywhere,” said Kieran Daly, Deputy Director at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and

Board Vice Chair of the RBM Partnership. "Having a diversity of leadership perspectives at the table will significantly strengthen efforts to combat malaria, particularly as we enter a bold new chapter in ending this disease."

The UAE has been a long-standing supporter of the RBM Partnership, contributing over a quarter of its total budget before restructuring. It will host the next RBM Board meeting in November 2017, which is timed to coincide with a global health forum taking place in Abu Dhabi titled *Reaching the Last Mile: Mobilizing Together to Eliminate Infectious Diseases*. The forum, hosted by the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, will address some of the most significant successes and challenges in disease elimination efforts, including malaria.

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About Roll Back Malaria Partnership

The RBM Partnership is the global platform for coordinated action against malaria. It mobilizes for action and resources and forges consensus among partners. The Partnership is comprised of more than 500 partners, including malaria endemic countries, their bilateral and multilateral development partners, the private sector, nongovernmental and community-based organizations, foundations, and research and academic institutions.