

RBM Vector Control Working Group

Brief update of VCWG-19 annual meeting

15-17 April 2024 in Kigali, Rwanda

ABOUT THE RBM VECTOR CONTROL WORKING GROUP

The Vector Control Working Group encompasses a diverse spectrum of stakeholders committed to advancing the efficacy of vector control in the fight against malaria. Serving as a platform for sharing research outcomes on both established and emerging tools, the VCWG facilitates dialogue on operational priorities in vector control and advocates for best practices that meet the needs of malaria-endemic countries. This collaborative effort harnesses the collective expertise of partners from national disease control programs, funding organizations, implementing agencies, research and academia, private-sector industry, and other stakeholders. This diversity fosters enriching dialogue, mutual learning, and the development of resilient responses tailored to the challenges of vector control. Moreover, by prioritizing collaboration with regional networks, the VCWG ensures that the specific needs of endemic regions are effectively addressed.

THIS YEAR, the RBM VCWG-19 meeting was held in Kigali, Rwanda, with 227 participants. The delegates came from 45 countries, representing six WHO regions: African (AFR), Americas (AMR), Eastern Mediterranean (EMR), European (EUR), South-East Asian (SEAR), and Western Pacific (WPR) (Figures 1a & 1b).

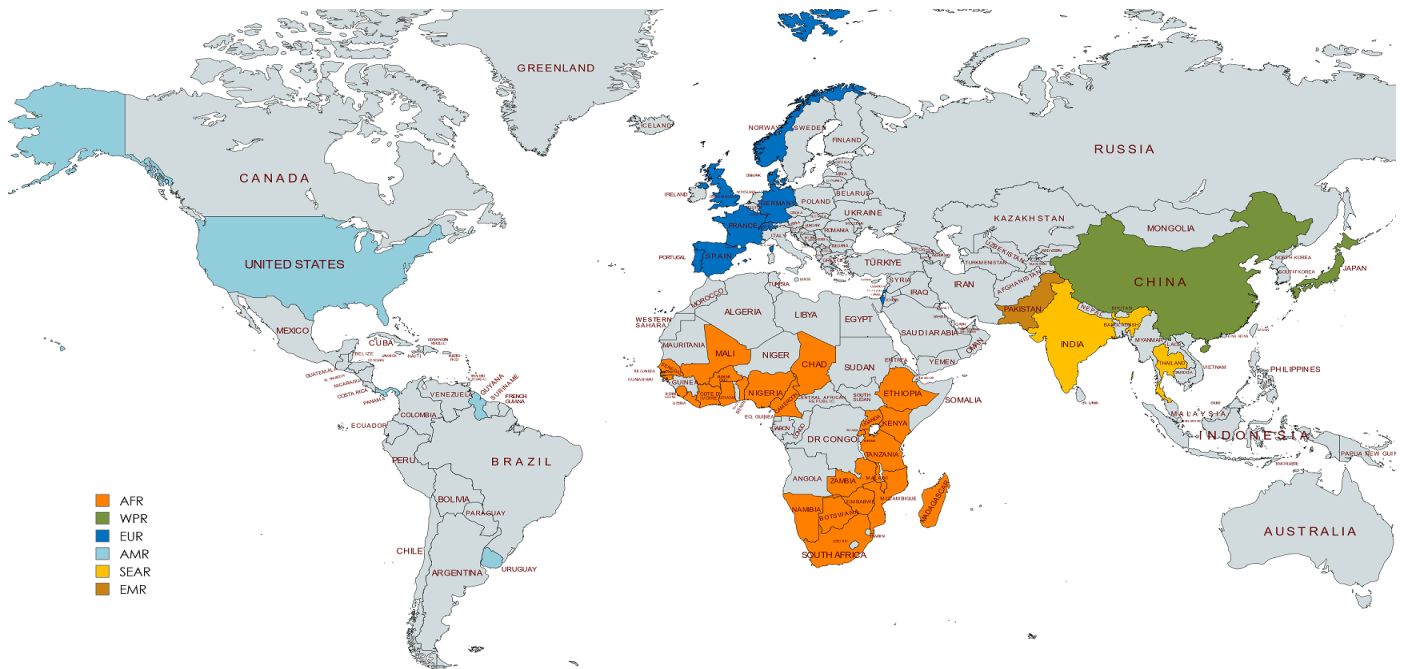


Figure 1a Country Regions of Participants at VCWG-19

AFR Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

EUR Denmark, France, Germany, Israel, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom

AMR Guyana, Panama, Uruguay, USA

WPR China, Japan

SEAR India, Thailand

EMR Pakistan

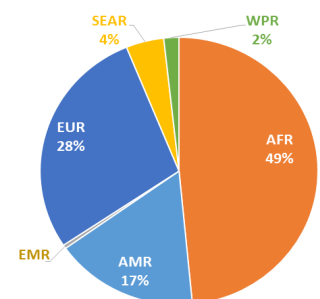


Figure 1b

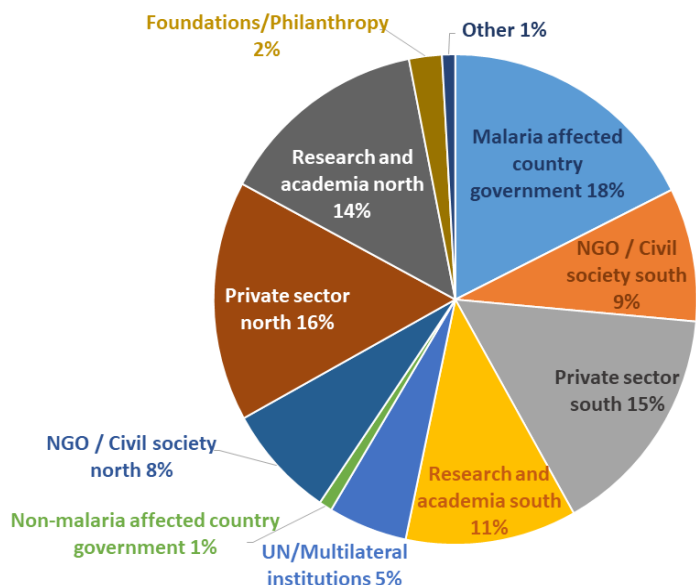


Figure 2 Constituencies at VCWG-19

CONSTITUENCIES

The distribution of participants reflected a notable regional divide. Predominantly, attendees from southern regions comprised the largest portion, including governmental agencies (18%), the private sector (15%), research and academia (11%), and civil society (9%). Conversely, representation from northern regions was marked by the private sector at 16%, followed by research and academia at 14%, civil society at 8%, governmental agencies at 1%, multilateral institutions at 5%, and foundations & philanthropy at 2% (Figure 2).

GENDER BALANCE

Figure 3 illustrates the gender distribution across various constituencies (64.2% male, 35.4% female, and 0.4% with no answer).

MALARIA-AFFECTED COUNTRIES

33 of the 45 represented countries were malaria-affected (Figure 4) which accounted for 73.3% of all participants. Kenya, Tanzania, Ghana, India and Rwanda made up the majority.

SPEAKERS

Under the theme "Anticipating Future Challenges in Malaria Vector Control," 79 speakers were counted. It indicates an impressive level of active engagement, with 34.8% of the annual meeting participants being speakers.

SPONSORING

The annual meeting warmly welcomes partners and participants who generously cover their own expenses. A nominal registration fee is charged to defray the costs associated with venue rental, catering, and technical requirements. Selected participants from affected countries received sponsorships from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) through the GlobMal Phase 4 project at Swiss TPH and the RBM Secretariat. Furthermore, the meeting featured an exhibition on vector control innovation with the participation of eight companies and organizations (Envu, Goizper Group, IVCC, MESTO, Mitsui, RAFT, Syngenta, Vestergaard) which partially supported country participation.

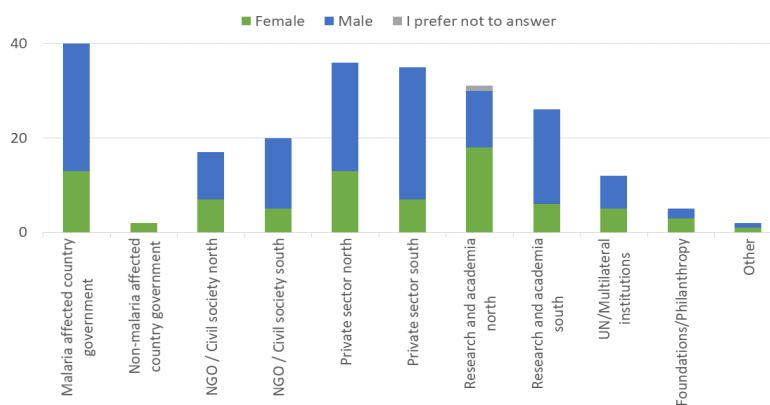


Figure 3 Gender and Constituencies at VCWG-19

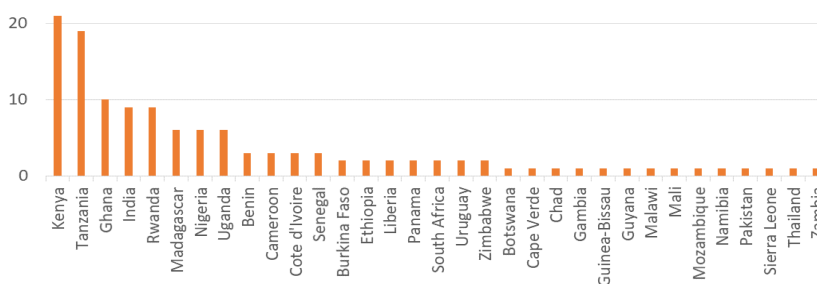


Figure 4 Malaria-affected countries at VCWG-19