

FEEDBACK

19TH MEETING OF THE RBM VECTOR CONTROL WORKING GROUP 15-17 April 2024 in Kigali, Rwanda

THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the online feedback of the 19th VCWG annual meeting in Kigali, Rwanda. Out of 227 participants, 108 people (48%) provided insightful responses that are summarized below. The meeting received mostly positive feedback.

Regarding the results of the feedback survey, five-star satisfaction ratings are regarded as very satisfied, somewhat satisfied (4 stars), neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (3 stars), somewhat dissatisfied (2 stars) and very dissatisfied (1 star). In the survey, ratings of 4 & 5 stars are denoted as “satisfied”.

DATES and VENUE

More than 92% of respondents were pleased with the date & timing (88.6%), location (93.2%) and meeting room (95.4%) (see *Figure 1*).

Also, over 89% of respondents were pleased with the catering & meals (93.1%) and transportation to/from the hotel (89.7%). 85.3% of respondents were happy with the meeting’s duration and 90.9% the sound/audio inside the meeting room. Look at *Figure 1*.

ORGANIZATION, AGENDA & SPEAKERS

Over 94% of respondents were satisfied with the registration process via the website (93.5%) and information provided (98.7%). 97.4% of respondents were pleased with the event website, 89.4% were happy with the Attendee Web & App. See *Figure 2*.

Regarding the sessions, 91.2% of respondents were pleased with the theme and quality of sessions, 77.9% were satisfied with the number of sessions. 88.3% of respondents were satisfied with the quality of the speakers. See *Figure 3*.

63.2% of respondents were satisfied with the Exhibition Fair and 54.4% with the E-posters. The collected feedback on the reasons of satisfaction, dissatisfaction and suggestions for the next meetings are described in the following pages.

SESSIONS

Over 86% of attendees expressed high satisfaction with all sessions, including the First Day Plenary (92.6%), WS1 (88.2%), WS2 (91.2%), WS3 (82.4%), Final Plenary (85.3%), and the Round Table (77.9%). Additionally, 73.5% of respondents were pleased with the joint meeting between VCWG and MSWG.

Figure 1: How satisfied are you with the dates and venue?

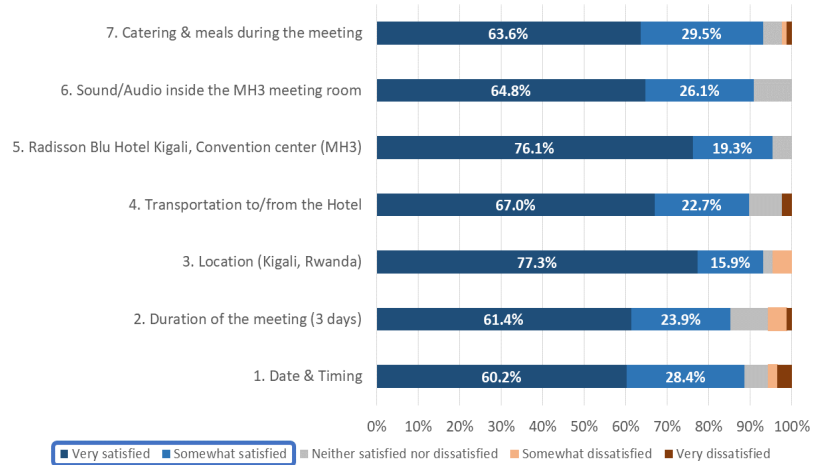


Figure 2: How satisfied are you with the organization?

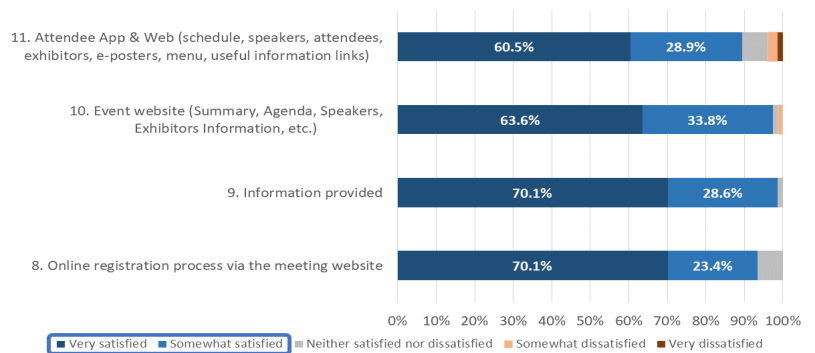
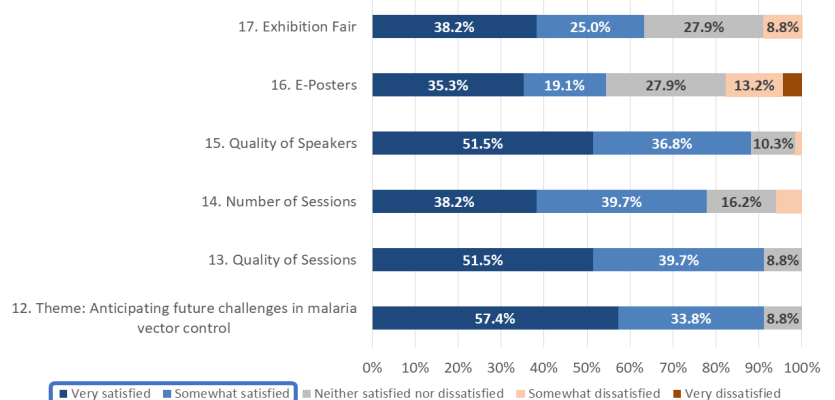


Figure 3: How satisfied are you with the Theme, Agenda, Sessions, Speakers, E-posters and Exhibition Fair?



MOSTLY LIKED!!

The mostly liked parts of the meeting were 1) Networking & Colleagues/Friends, followed by 2) Sessions, Contents & Speakers, 3) Organization, 4) Theme, 5) Key Stakeholders and 6) Venue. See *Figure 4*.

1) Networking & Colleagues/Friends

Networking is the most favorite aspect of the meeting. In particular, meeting colleagues and friends from various countries created the best opportunities for collaborations. Also, the diversity of participants from 45 countries of 6 regions and 10 different constituencies attracted more networking opportunities.

“Meeting up with old friends/colleagues and making new contacts.”

“I enjoyed the networking and some of the sessions, like the climate change panel discussion. The meal and the venue were excellent too.”

“Meeting colleagues and hearing results of members’ work and research.”

2) Sessions, Contents & Speakers

The respondents preferred the panel discussions above all else. The topics and updates from the partners were their second favorite aspect. Additionally, the presentations from NMCP and various countries were well-liked.

“The engagement and panel discussions were insightful.”

“The sessions were very informative and productive.”

“The different topics that were discussed and the various updates from all partners (WHO, new tools, etc.) were valuable.”

“I appreciated all the different presentations because I left this meeting with a lot of knowledge regarding vector control of malaria, but above all, on the different domestic financing strategies.”

3) Organization

For the second time in an endemic country, we received many compliments on how well the meeting was run overall! The attendee App and live Q&A were generally liked. Paperless meeting was successful.

“It was well planned and executed, the venue was excellent.”

“Direct feedback and questions via the web.”

“Excellent organization and effective communication both before and during the meeting.”

4) Theme

Anticipating future challenges in malaria vector control was considered highly relevant to current topics and issues in the Vector Control Working Group.

“Meetings was focused on vector control and relevant and current issues were interrogated.”

“Really high quality speakers and interesting topics with good discussions.”

5) Key Stakeholders

The respondents appreciated the qualified speakers who shared the latest information on best practices, as well as the participation of relevant vector control stakeholders.

“Amazing speakers, incredible selection of experts, fantastic networking and learning opportunity.”

Figure 4: Mostly liked



6) Venue

Many attendees considered the venue in Kigali, Rwanda, a great aspect of the meeting. Hosting the event in an African country for the second consecutive year made it accessible for the majority of participants (61%) from the Global South, including representatives from malaria-affected country governments, NGOs, private sectors, and research organizations. This location allowed participants from the South to travel at a lower cost and with minimal or no visa requirements.

SUGGESTIONS for NEXT MEETINGS

Highly constrained 2.5-day sessions with a lack of breaks were the most frequently reported problem. The second most mentioned suggestion was the allocation of additional time for Q&A and discussions rather than just presentations. Additionally, we received several ideas on how to improve interactive sessions and address technical issues more effectively.

Time schedule was too tight!

Throughout the 2.5-day meeting, there were over 80 speakers presenting and more than 60 talks. Many **complained on the overly intensive sessions, the lack of breaks, and the early start & late end times** (8am - often after 6 pm). This led to a loss of concentration and reduced participation in the afternoon sessions. In particular, many attendees needed breaks and flexible time after the daytime sessions to meet with colleagues and network. Here are some suggestions for adjusting the schedule for future meetings:

- **Extend Meeting Duration:** Consider extending the meeting to three or four days to allow for more comprehensive discussions and ample breaks for mornings and afternoons.
- **Structured Breaks:** Implement proper morning and afternoon breaks to maintain focus and productivity throughout the day.
- **Streamline Agenda:** Reduce the number of topics and presentations to ensure each day’s sessions can reasonably conclude by 4-5 pm, respecting participants’

time commitments.

- **Enforce Time Limits:** Ensure strict adherence to time limits for speakers to maximize the efficiency of scheduled sessions.
- **Pre-meeting Platform:** Create a platform for sharing best practices before the annual meeting, focusing discussions and presentations on key information during the main event.

Sessions, Topics & Speakers

Frequent comments focused on **the need for more time dedicated to Q&A and discussions** instead of having an excessive number of presentations. Many respondents suggested **expanding the range of topics** to include:

- Climate change.
- Community mobilization and engagement for malaria prevention.
- Implementation policies, strategies, adaptation, and partnerships for integrating vector management (IVM).
- Building IVM resilience at the community level.
- Renewing global commitment with innovative tools, products, and strategies.
- Local funding strategies and sustainability mechanisms.
- Issues related to malaria, dengue, and schistosomiasis, and advocacy for social and behavioral change.
- Integrated approaches to vector prevention, vector surveillance, and preparedness and response to emerging threats.
- Focused discussions integrating technical and scientific updates with strategic planning.
- Sessions do not need to be organized exclusively by the task teams.
- More private sector partners should be involved.

Additionally, some respondents suggested allocating more time for Working Group sessions and recommended them to be closely linked to the overall theme.

Attendee App, Live Q&A and Technical Support

We received much positive feedback about the attendee app, with many appreciating the paper-free event. There were also some suggestions for technical improvements:

- Add email and LinkedIn profile of attendees on the app.
- All participants need to use the app to enable communication/chat with other attendees.
- Add QR code of live Q&A and introduction of Attendee App on the name badge.
- Offer language services for French and Portuguese.
- Provide support for printed agendas and information materials.

E-Posters and Exhibition Fairs

This year, we organized the E-Poster sessions as part of the paper-free event. Many attendees suggested **providing more screens and more time for poster presentations**. An exhibitor recommended allowing sponsor pitches earlier in the agenda to facilitate Q&A at their booth.

Venue, Meeting Room and Service

Feedback on the venue in Kigali, Rwanda, was largely positive, with participants expressing satisfaction. However, there are several points of feedback that have been highlighted:

- Participants suggested that hotel room prices should be more affordable, or alternative accommodations near the venue should be available.
- Concerns were raised about noise disturbances, such as drums from neighboring rooms, which should be minimized.
- There is a need for additional electric sockets to accommodate the charging needs of attendees.
- Suggestions were made to attract more participants from malaria-affected countries in Africa.
- Alternating the venue between Geneva and other EU locations could facilitate meetings with key partners from UN/multilateral institutions.
- Participants requested more diverse food options, including vegetarian and vegan choices.
- Clear signage is needed to effectively guide participants to meeting rooms.
- For intensive meetings, meeting rooms should ideally have windows to provide natural light and fresh air.

Other Suggestions and Comments

Additional recommendations included early opening of the registration site to facilitate efficient participant accommodation, advance sharing of the final program, opportunities for networking through social events and dinners, provision of a presentation template for consistency, and meticulous scheduling to prevent overlap with other activities.



2024 VCWG-19 in Kigali

Corine Ngufor & El Hadji Amadou Niang, Co-Chairs of [RBM Vector Control Working Group](#)

Konstantina Boutsika, Coordinator

Sunghea Park, Technical operations and administrative support

[twitter: @RBM_VCWG](#)