



## Media Release –SARN Post launch

Southern Africa Regional Network (SARN) launched at Elephant Hills, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, and 23rd November, 2007



**Dr Brian Chituwo, Chairperson of the SADC Health Ministers (right), Resident Minister/Governor Matabeleland North Province, T Maththu (middle) and Rev Damasane , Zimbabwe (extreme left)**

The Southern Africa Regional Network (SARN) was launched in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe on 23 November 2007. The Hon Dr Brian Chituwo, Minister of Health (Zambia) and Chairperson of the SADC Ministers of Health was the guest of honour who launched the Southern Africa Regional Network. Dr Chituwo stressed the importance of collaboration and coordination of health issues within the SADC contextual frame work. At the end of the launch ceremony, Dr. Chituwo introduced the 18 member SARN Steering Committee made up of partners and stakeholders from within the SADC region and these included representatives from the SADC malaria managers, UN Agencies, private sector, NGOs, research institutions, SADC Military Health Services and academic institutions (see photo below).



**The SADC SARN Steering Committee members with chairmen Simon Kunene (in black) in the middle**

The launch ceremony was attended by the SADC Health Ministers and Senior officials, SADC Secretariat, cultural groups, school children, RBM Secretariat, traditional chiefs from Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe, Church leaders, and RBM partners. The SADC Deputy Executive Secretary Dr JS Caholo outlined the role of SARN in the SADC region and congratulated the Steering Committee Members for the successful launch of SARN. Dr Caholo assured the participants that SADC will continue to support the planned efforts.

The launch of SARN in the SADC region demonstrates the existence of a strong political leadership, commitment and dedication of the SADC Health Ministers and their partners in taking health high on the agenda of Member States within the SADC region



**Martha Mpisaunga**  
**SARN Steering Committee Member**

On behalf of the RBM partners in the SADC Region, Martha Mpisaunga, Regional Public Health Manager of Syngenta-Zimbabwe (in the above photo) said, “we are all gathered here to witness the establishment of SARN, a direct result of close networking relationship among partners without which it would have not been possible”. She further stressed that partners in the SADC region would like to reaffirm their commitment towards strengthening the SARN and combine their efforts to eliminate malaria in the SADC region.

The occasion was graced by celebrities such as, Yvonne Chaka Chaka, the Roll Back Malaria Ambassador from South Africa, Oliver Mtukudzi from Zimbabwe, the renowned artist and musician in the SADC region and Maureen Lilanda, a prominent musician from Zambia provided music and entertainment. Yvonne Chaka Chaka as the Roll Back Malaria Ambassador thanked all the stakeholders present for their efforts, commitment, and concern for people in the world who are suffering from malaria. She highlighted that people’s efforts, power and positions can influence the world to become healthier and free from diseases including malaria. The RBM Ambassador appealed to the SARN partners, the business communities, NGOs, UN agents, governments, the private sector and the SADC Military Health Services to unite towards mobilizing global resources.



**Yvonne Chaka Chaka**



**Maureen Lilanda**



**Oliver Mtukudzi**



**Dr Coll Seck**  
**Executive Director, RBM**

During the launch Dr A Coll-Seck, Executive Director Roll Back Malaria congratulated the SARN Steering Committee Members for a job well done and emphasized that the lessons learnt and experiences gained from Southern Africa will be shared with other networks in Africa and globally.

The launch was preceded by the launch of the SADC Malaria Day, by His Excellency, President Robert Gabriel Mugabe, at Elephant Hills in Victoria Falls, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2007. The Southern Africa Regional Network has been established in the region to ensure ownership of the Southern Africa Malaria Partnership and to oversee the implementation of the SARN Work Plan as outlined in the SADC Malaria Strategic Framework for 2007 -2015). In addition, the SARN will aim to mobilize financial, technical and material resources for the activities outlined in the strategic plan.



Entertainment came from the traditional dancers: Zambia on the left , South Africa in the middle and on the right school children from Zimbabwe .

**For more information:**  
**Contact : SADC Secretariat**  
**Attention: Ms Lebo Lebese**  
**+2673951863**  
**Email: LLebese @sadc.int**