

A Joint Statement by the Swiss Malaria Group

On the occasion of World Malaria Day, commemorated on 25th of April 2009

Where we are

Malaria is a major public health problem in many developing countries and an impediment to economic growth and development. After decades of indifference, renewed attention is now being paid to malaria control in the face of the immense suffering caused by the disease. Governments and non-state actors have put malaria on top of their agendas. Advocacy groups are sensitising the world and celebrities are speaking up for more action against malaria. As a result, funding for malaria control has increased remarkably. Malaria programmes in the most affected countries benefit from major donor organizations, such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the World Bank Booster Program for Africa, the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative, and many other initiatives.

Global efforts to control malaria depend on the availability of powerful control tools and effective strategies to reach those affected. Institutions based in Switzerland have played an active and often pioneering role in the innovation, validation and application of malaria control tools. This resulted in the scale-up of integrated insecticide-treated net (ITN) programmes and the large-scale implementation of Artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACT) in numerous countries. Strong partnerships have been established with institutions in malaria-endemic countries and organisations fighting malaria around the globe.

The Swiss Malaria Group (SMG) is a partnership of the following institutions which have joined their forces in the global fight against malaria: The Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation, the Swiss Tropical Institute, Novartis, the Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development, Mepha, Syngenta, Vestergaard Frandsen Group, SolidarMed, the Swiss Red Cross, Médecins sans Frontières, and Medicines for Malaria Venture. The SMG operates with close ties to the Roll Back Malaria Partnership.

Where we want to go

The common goal of the SMG is to intensify the global fight against malaria in order to accelerate the reduction in the burden of malaria, particularly in the most affected regions of the world. With the aim to improve the health of the people affected by malaria, the SMG aims at supporting malaria-endemic countries and their people with innovative tools, knowledge and financing. Any malaria control programmes can only be a success if the results achieved are sustainable and reached with the support and commitment of the people and countries concerned.

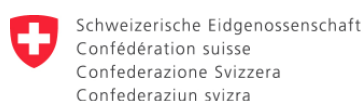
How we want to get there

Effective malaria control needs innovation to find new drugs, vaccines, and other control tools. Newly developed instruments need to be validated in the contexts in which they are to be applied. The application of control measures is context-specific and needs to be well planned in order to reach the target populations. Monitoring systems have to be improved in order to measure success. Strengthening local health systems is an essential component of effective and sustainable malaria control as is the partnership with local Governments, non-state actors, and the affected populations. Malaria control strategies need to be driven by evidence of what works best and what is most sustainable, generated through best-practice research. Switzerland offers a unique expertise in all these areas.

Sustainable success in malaria control will depend on research and innovation, on advocacy, on long-term financing, and on continued political commitment and leadership from partners in the North and the South.

What we need

In order to achieve its goals, the SMG calls for increased public attention and awareness. It calls for a long-term commitment and leadership on behalf of the Swiss public and the Swiss Government. It urges for increased and sustained public funding for malaria control through organizations such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria as well as through Swiss Government development programmes. Finally, the SMG calls upon all actors involved in malaria control to join forces and work in equal partnership with countries affected by the scourge of malaria.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Direktion für Entwicklung und Zusammenarbeit DEZA
Direction du développement et de la coopération DDC
Direzione dello sviluppo e della cooperazione DSC
Direcziun da svilup e da cooperaziun DSC



Swiss Tropical Institute
Institut Tropical Suisse
Schweizerisches Tropeninstitut

**SOLIDAR
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mepha

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VESTERGAARD FRANDSEN
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MALARIA**