

## **“COUNTING MALARIA OUT”: WHAT ROLE FOR EU STAKEHOLDERS IN MEETING THE GLOBAL MALARIA ACTION PLAN’S OBJECTIVES? RECOMMENDATIONS**

The European Union (EU) has been and continues to be one of the major donors of international aid and, as such, is greatly responsible to push the fight against malaria and to keep health aid financing high on the agenda. In this context, future malaria advocacy work in Europe should focus on the following needs:

### **ADVOCACY TOWARDS THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND EUROPEAN MEMBER STATES**

1) Promote the GMAP’s objectives and their endorsement through the mobilisation of EU Institutions, national governments, MPs, MEPs, CSOs and representatives of the private sector and through the implementation of coherent plans and programmes.

2) Increase financial support even in times of financial crisis – it is crucial to make sure the European Commission (EC) and European Member States (MS) will:

- Live up to ODA commitments in terms of quantity (predictable and long-term funding for malaria/health) and quality (Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action- AAA)
- Contribute to fully fund the Global Fund
- Strengthen CSO capacities and community participation in the South, encourage parliamentary involvement
- Prioritize funding channels that give civil society a decisional voice
- Encourage continued and increased global solidarity in order to attain “sustainability” - in particular in the context of a global economic and financial crisis - this should not only depend on financial self-reliance at national level.

3) Strengthen malaria/health policy - EU action should aim at:

- Aligning a comprehensive malaria response
- Focusing on country level and support countries to reach the 15% Abuja target
- Initiating / expanding the policy dialogue especially with CSO (capacity building on malaria, access to prevention diagnosis and treatment)
- Optimizing the modalities of the EC’s aid at country level in order to support malaria 2010 universal coverage and MDG objectives. Part of the General Budget Support should be allocated to Health Systems Strengthening, synergies are needed between existing instruments to ensure more, better and sustained responses to malaria control at country level

4) Strengthen partnerships, collaborations and integration:

- For an increased ownership through dialogue at country level with EC delegations and EU Member States’ representatives, CSO and others to ensure that malaria/health needs are addressed in national plans and budgets
- With HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights strategies
- For reducing maternal and child mortality and linking MDGs; 5 and 6

5) Include specific indicators on MDG targets in all the EC’s MDG contracts in order to ensure an optimal monitoring and evaluation process, and an integrated approach on MDGs 4; 5 and 6. The importance of the MDG Action plan should be pushed by CSO at EU level.

#### **INVESTMENT IN MALARIA IS VALUE FOR MONEY**

- Increased demand for health system strengthening must be met with funding commitments and budgets and commitments need to be mid to long term
- Innovative Funding Mechanisms should be additional and should not substitute traditional ODA.
- The Currency Transaction Levy must be implemented and restrictive tariffs and taxes on essential commodities must be tackled
- More investment in research and delivery systems is required
- Consider reductions of GBS and balance with SWAPs and Project-specific funding

#### **COMMIT TO STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY**

- Global Fund should ensure malaria is represented at all levels
- CS must be protected from overload by better alignment on the technical assistance that comes for specific diseases
- IHP + must include CS participation at all levels. Expand the time of preparation of the country compacts to facilitate CS engagement
- CS should be present in negotiations between donors and recipients in order to increase transparency
- Strengthen the CCM so that CSO and CBO are able to work in a more coordinated way. 50% of the principal recipients are CSO but we need to ensure that with the NSA this does not dilute.
- The indicators related to the effectiveness of Community Systems Strengthening (CSS) need to be much more explicit.
- Ensure that CSS is included in National Strategy Applications (NSA) → Technical partners and CSO need to advocate in order to make this happen.
- Include Malaria experts in the CCM, in the Global Fund's board and at donor level, including in the south. The Global Fund should make sure malaria experts are well represented.
- Pilot studies regarding NSA need to include Malaria, so that there are realistic lessons learnt based on real situations. There are no CSO working on Malaria in China or Vietnam.
- Technical assistance provided on specific diseases should be better aligned so that it does not overload CSO and local CBO.
- The financial crisis should not be an excuse to hold up the political will. There are numerous promises and political declarations which still need to be translated into actions.

#### **VARIOUS ADVOCACY MESSAGES TO BE PROMOTED**

- The IHP + should include greater participation by CSO working in the field.
- Timeframes at disposal to finalize the compacts should be extended
- All new initiatives should be integrated in the country and align to the SWAPs – which should be strengthened
- The Division of Labor is too narrow and should be expanded.
- The analysis of financial gaps should be strengthened as malaria advocates need to agree on numbers and figures.
- UNITAID, the AMFm and the CTL should be expanded

- Sustainability is a challenge and therefore, budgets and commitments should be mid and long term.
- Northern organizations should increase partnerships with local CSO and even with local governments to ensure country ownership.
- CSO should be present in negotiations between donors and recipients (local government) at country level in order to increase transparency of the processes.
- Interventions need to tackle the big picture and focus on all levels at the same time. Improving tools is not enough to ensure success.
- Tariffs and taxes on nets should be removed.
- Initiatives similar to MMV for insecticides and Vector Control products should be promoted at EU level.
- European NGOs should be more involved in the implementation and support of control activities.
- The need for funding regarding the distribution of vaccines (when the latter is available) should be taken into consideration in order to ensure that the malaria vaccine is integrated in Health systems and other vaccination programmes.
- International regulations on prices of insecticides are needed and advocacy work is needed to convince the general public that ITN are not poisonous.
- The dialogue between the various organizations working on different diseases and areas - mainly on AIDS and TB – should be strengthened.
- The use of insecticides in developing countries should be integrated in core advocacy messages in Europe in order to solve the confusion regarding the different insecticides.