

BERN MALARIA DECLARATION

REAFFIRMING SWITZERLAND'S LEADERSHIP ROLE TO END MALARIA

PREAMBLE

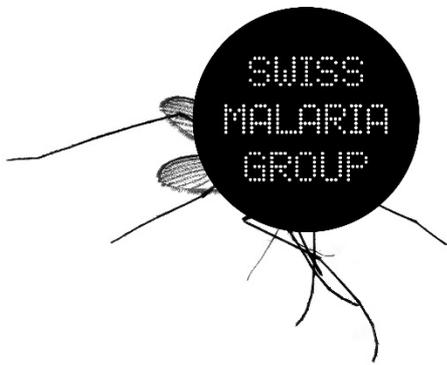
We, the Swiss Malaria Group together with members of the Swiss parliamentary group on global health (listed individually below) join our efforts to devise a united approach to strengthen global health systems and fight malaria effectively, efficiently and in a sustainable manner. On World Malaria Day 2016 we join forces to advocate for a new era of comprehensive action against malaria under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Our aim is to highlight the critical link between advances in malaria control and social, environmental and economic development. Over the years, Switzerland has made a significant contribution to the many successes in the global fight for a malaria free world and we are dedicated to continued investment of our knowledge, innovation and commitment to achieve this vital goal.

KEY MESSAGES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

1. SWITZERLAND IS A PIONEER IN THE FIGHT AGAINST MALARIA
Swiss-based organizations combine research excellence and long-standing field experience garnered over decades in the fight against malaria. Switzerland carries out cutting-edge scientific research in both the public and private sectors, and boasts a robust research infrastructure. It also hosts thriving NGOs and civil society organisations active in improving global health. Close collaboration between these sectors both in Switzerland and in the Global South contributes significantly to the global fight against malaria.

**2. WE MUST CONTINUE THE FIGHT AGAINST MALARIA WITHIN
THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**

It is our joint responsibility to continue the fight against malaria within the framework of the United Nation's newly instituted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We



place particular emphasis on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 to “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages” and Goal 3.3 “By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases”. All our actions will not only be focused on specific actions to eliminate malaria, but will be on the determinants of health, which we consider to be important cornerstones of the SDGs.

We pledge to use as guiding principles the WHO’s¹ *Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016-2030* and Roll Back Malaria’s *Action and Investment to defeat Malaria 2016-2030*. We urge all others in the malaria community to do the same.

KEY MESSAGES FOR ALL

3. BY DEFEATING MALARIA WE HELP DEFEAT POVERTY

Malaria is both a cause and a consequence of poverty and can keep entire nations trapped in a vicious cycle of underdevelopment. The poorest and most vulnerable are the most affected. By supporting the fight against malaria, Switzerland contributes to the global drive to eliminate poverty and thus to support economic development.

4. MALARIA IS ONE OF THE BEST DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES OF OUR TIMES

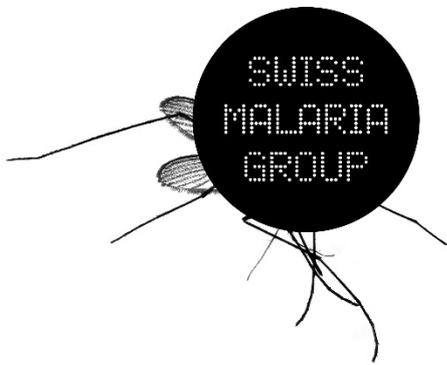
Investing in the fight against malaria is one of the most cost-effective development opportunities in global health. It has a high cost-benefit ratio: a 10% reduction in malaria has been associated with a 0.3% rise in annual GDP². Since 2000, when the global fight against malaria was renewed, over 6 million lives, mostly young children, have been saved³ due to a 60% reduction in malaria mortality. If the WHO goals for 2030 are met, it is estimated that over 10 million lives will be saved and \$4 trillion added to the economic output of malaria-endemic countries⁴. This is a return on investment worth fighting for.

¹ World Health Organization

² Gallup JL, Sachs J (2001). The economic burden of malaria. *Amer J Trop Med Hyg* ; 64 (1,2) S: 85-96

³ World Health Organization and UNICEF - Achieving the Malaria MDG Target – WHO/UNICEF (http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/184521/1/9789241509442_eng.pdf?ua=1)

⁴ Roll Back Malaria: Action and Investment to Defeat Malaria 2016-2030 (AIM)



KEY MESSAGES FOR STAKEHOLDERS & IMPLEMENTERS

5. SWISS GOVERNMENT AND SWISS MALARIA GROUP MEMBERS PLEDGE TO EFFECTIVELY COLLABORATE WITH MALARIA-ENDEMIC COUNTRIES

We aim for effectiveness and place an emphasis on good governance when working with global actors and endemic countries. Swiss Malaria Group (SMG) members extend a large global footprint with their malaria research and interventions. SMG encourages good governance and regional and intersectoral collaboration to advance malaria control objectives, both public and private, at all levels, especially in education, health, agriculture, economic development and the environment. Developing innovative, effective and affordable antimalarial tools, integrated vector management, increasing access to current malaria interventions, and maintaining their rational use through health education and health promotion in the face of insecticide and drug resistance, are key elements of successful malaria control strategies.

For example in Tanzania, Swiss organizations are working with the government and affected communities to improve the availability and quality of health care in remote areas. A mosquito net program managed and supported by SMG members has succeeded in reducing the child mortality rate in Tanzania by 44% in just five years. This translates to around 60'000 child deaths being averted per year and contributes to Tanzania's pre-eminent position as a leading African country in fighting malaria.⁵ Overall, SMG members positively impact over 60 countries worldwide improving health systems and facilitating malaria prevention measures and access to treatment.

6. STRONGER HEALTH SYSTEMS MUST LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

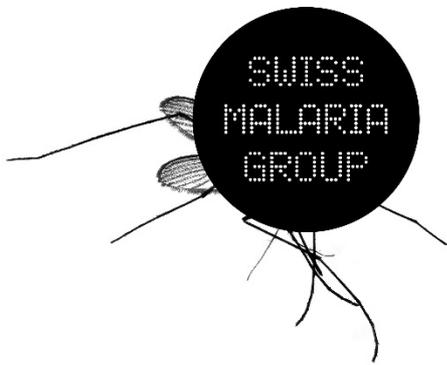
Despite significant gains made over the last 15 years, an estimated 214 million people were infected with malaria in 2015 alone⁶ and around half a million lives were lost to this disease, mainly in Africa⁷. One of the main reasons is fragile health systems. Among the many interventions needed to fight malaria, one of the most important ones is to strengthen health systems in malaria-endemic countries, so that effective and good quality healthcare services also reach remote areas, thus serving all people. Health systems strengthening and malaria control have reciprocal beneficial effects.⁸

⁵ Swiss TPH 2013. <http://www.swisstph.ch/en/news/news/world-malaria-day-2013-invest-in-the-future-defeat-malaria.html>

⁶ UNICEF and WHO 2015. Achieving the malaria MDG Target. Reversing the incidence of malaria 2000-2015

⁷ WHO 2015, World Malaria Report

⁸ <http://www.afro.who.int/en/clusters-a-programmes/dpc/malaria/features/2287-10-facts-on-malaria-in-africa.html>



Further, it is widely recognised that building capacity to empower communities in healthcare issues such as prevention, diagnosis, treatment and surveillance are vital for the comprehensive case management of malaria⁹.

7. THE GAP BETWEEN RESEARCH AND ACCESS MUST BE BRIDGED

Innovative interventions alone are not sufficient to effectively combat malaria. Only interventions adapted to local circumstances result in true impact. Research and development (R&D) have to consider medical needs, affordability and local customs if malaria is to be controlled and defeated. Therefore, Switzerland and Swiss Malaria Group members support and implement a close and goal-oriented working relationship between R&D and implementing partners.

Finally, multi-stakeholder initiatives such as the Swiss Malaria Group can help bridge the gaps between malaria R&D and implementation to ensure success.

KEY MESSAGES FOR SWITZERLAND

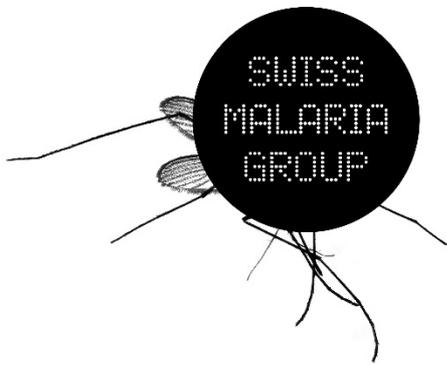
8. SWISS CENTRES OF RESEARCH EXCELLENCE, INDUSTRY AND NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS FIGHTING MALARIA MUST BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED

Swiss malaria expertise and excellence found in internationally recognised centres of research excellence, industry and NGOs generates international income and jobs in Switzerland. By reinforcing the country's role in the global malaria fight, we can further strengthen this leadership position in the public and private sectors.

9. WISELY INVESTED SWISS GLOBAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS MUST BE INCREASED

With the tense current global situation, we consider it fundamentally inappropriate to reduce international solidarity, as the reduction of disease and poverty is an essential basis for stability and social and economic development. Swiss investments in malaria projects in endemic countries have demonstrated significant impact (see Section 4 on investment returns). To sustain this progress we urge the Swiss Government to strengthen its support within the framework of increased official development assistance. The financing, implementation and success of the overarching SDGs require increased commitment from all countries, including Switzerland.

⁹ <http://www.afro.who.int/en/clusters-a-programmes/hss/health-policy-a-service-delivery/features/2235-community-involvement-in-health.html>



10. SWISS SUPPORT WILL ACTIVELY CONTRIBUTE TO THE INTERNATIONALLY-AGREED GOALS OF 40% REDUCTION OF MALARIA BY 2020 AND 90% BY 2030

In 2015, the WHO adopted the “Global Technical Strategy (GTS) for Malaria 2016-2030“ and Roll Back Malaria published the „Action and Investment to Defeat Malaria 2016-2030“ (AIM). These foundation documents estimate that meeting these goals will cost around \$110 billion over the next 15 years, including \$10 billion for research. By committing to the goals of defeating this terrible disease, Switzerland commits to contributing to agreed international targets and remains an important actor in one of the major public health achievements of this century.

Signing parliamentarians:

- Angelo Barrile, National councilor, Social Democratic Party
- Didier Berberat, State councilor, Social Democratic Party
- Marina Carobbio, National councilor, Social Democratic Party
- Ignacio Cassis, National councilor, Free Democratic Party
- Isabelle Chevalley, National councilor, Green Liberal Party
- Raphaël Comte, President of State council, Free Democratic Party
- Barbara Gysi, National councilor, Social Democratic Party
- Yvonne Feri, National councilor, Social Democratic Party
- Christian Levrat, State councilor, Social Democratic Party
- Christa Markwalder, President of National council, Free Democratic Party
- Liliane Maury Pasquier, State councilor, Social Democratic Party
- Rosmarie Quadranti, National councilor, Democratic Party