

Introduction

Africa is at the centre of a perfect storm that threatens to disrupt essential life-saving malaria services. These include critical financial shortfalls for malaria programmes, linked to the ongoing global financial crisis, the impact of climate change, insecticide, and drug resistance, and humanitarian crises which need to be addressed urgently to prevent malaria upsurges. As a result, the continent is off track to meet its bold and ambitious target to end malaria, and still bears the heaviest burden of the disease. About 94% of all malaria cases and 95% of all malaria deaths occur in Africa.

Member States face a significant resource gap to sustain the current, yet inadequate coverage in essential malaria interventions, linked to reduced ODA, with an additional annual funding of $5.2 billion required for the continent to make progress towards elimination, allowing countries to fully implement their national strategic plans. Another $11 billion USD annually to support climate adaptation in the Health Sector. The malaria parasite is becoming resistant to antimalarials and mutating to evade detection by rapid diagnostic tests. Further the mosquitoes that transmit malaria are becoming increasingly resistant to insecticides. At the same time, the intensifying effects of climate change continue to threaten the gains made in combating malaria and NTDs. Collectively, these threats reduce the effectiveness of the tools we have to combat malaria, increase costs, and increase the likelihood of malaria resurgence.

Recognising the urgent need to lift Africa from this perfect storm, Health Ministers from African countries most burdened by malaria have pledged to substantially advance the fight and eliminate deaths caused by the disease. Under the Yaoundé Declaration, these countries are committed to intensifying their efforts through strong leadership, substantial investment in healthcare infrastructure, and innovative strategies to directly tackle the disease head-on. The African Union recently launched the fully costed AU Roadmap 2030 and beyond: Sustaining the AIDS Response, Ensuring Systems Strengthening and Health Security for the Development of Africa which is the acceleration plan for achieving key health targets including those set out in the Catalytic Framework to End HIV, TB and eliminate malaria by 2030. Now is the time for a big push!

In this context, the African Union, RBM Partnership to End Malaria and the African Leaders Malaria Alliance are co-hosting a malaria side event on the sidelines of the 2025 World Health Assembly in Geneva. The session aims to support ministers of health in translating commitments into action to ensure a ‘big push’ to accelerate malaria burden reduction and get back on track.

About the Change the Story campaign

Change the Story is a campaign that puts children’s voices at the heart of the malaria fight and ensure leaders are aware of the perfect storm of challenges facing malaria elimination. The campaign aims to motivate donor and endemic countries to increase their support for malaria interventions - including new and powerful tools -

through mobilising resources. At this World Health Assembly side event, we will share the next phase of the campaign, featuring stories of three girls in Uganda, Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso. We will learn about the impact of malaria on refugee children, how malaria perpetuates gender inequity and the new tools that can help to defeat malaria.

Ministerial Malaria Champions

Under the leadership of the new ALMA chair, President Advocate Duma Gideon Boko, ALMA and the RBM Partnership to End Malaria are spearheading the establishing of ministerial malaria champions across the continent. This initiative aims to bring together Ministers of Health to become advocates for malaria elimination, leveraging their unique position to prioritise malaria within the broader health context, secure vital resources (both domestically and with donor countries), encourage cross-country collaboration and build momentum and demand for innovative new tools. At this side event, we look forward to introducing our inaugural set of ministerial malaria champions who represent each Regional Economic Community.

Participants

- Ministers of Health from Africa
- African Union Commission
- RBM Partnership to End Malaria
- African Leaders Malaria Alliance
- The World Health Organization
- Malaria No More UK
- Key malaria and health partners

Proposed speakers

- H.E. Amma Twum-Amoah, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, African Union
- H.E. Professor Sheila Tlou, ALMA Special Ambassador (moderator)
- H.E. Dr Jean Kaseya, Director General, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention
- Joy Phumaphi, Executive Secretary, African Leaders Malaria Alliance
- Dr Michael Adekunle Charles, CEO, RBM Partnership to End Malaria
- Malaria No More UK (TBC)
- Dr Daniel Ngamije Madandi, Director for the Global Malaria Programme, World Health Organization
- Selected Honourable Ministers of Health from Botswana, Burkina Faso, Malawi, Nigeria and Zambia

Desired outcomes for the session

Translating commitments into action – identifying key actions and required support to deliver a big push and get malaria elimination back on track.

Length and timing

The briefing will be a one and half hour meeting on Sunday, 18 May 2025 from 7am to 8.30am. at the InterContinental Genève, on the sidelines of the 78th World Health Assembly.

Draft agenda

Opening Session	
7:00 to 7:02	**Moderator's remarks** H.E. Professor Sheila Tlou, Special Ambassador, ALMA
7:03 to 7:10	**Malaria keynote** H.E. Amma Twum-Amoah, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, African Union
7:11 to 7:16	**Change the Story film** Malaria No More UK
7:17 to 7:24	**Update on the Yaoundé Declaration** Dr Daniel Ngamije Madandi, Director of the Global Malaria Programme, WHO
7:25 to 7:32	**Importance of local manufacture for long term sustainability** H.E. Dr Jean Kaseya, Director General, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention
Panel discussion on achieving the Yaoundé Declaration	
7:33 to 7:35	**Session moderator remarks** Dr Michael Adekunle Charles, CEO, RBM Partnership to End Malaria
7:36 to 7:43	**Public and private sector domestic resource mobilisation in Zambia including through the Zambia End Malaria Councils and Funds** Honourable Dr Elijah Muchima, Minister of Health, Republic of Zambia
7:44 to 7:51	**Integrated financing towards a big push to achieve malaria elimination** Honourable Prof Ali Muhammad Pate, Minister of Health, Federal Republic of Nigeria
7:52 to 7.59	**Addressing the impact of climate change on malaria - the experience of Malawi** Honourable Khumbize Kandodo Chiponda, Minister of Health, Republic of Malawi
8.00 to 8:08	**Innovation and fast tracking new tools** Honourable Dr Robert Lucien Jean-Claude Kargougou, Minister of Health, Burkina Faso
8:09 to 8:16	**The need for a Big Push to end malaria** Honourable Dr Stephen Modise, Minister of Health, Republic of Botswana
Ministerial Malaria Champions	
8:17 to 8:25	**Appointment of Ministerial Malaria Champions**
Closing remarks and call to action	
8:25 to 8:30	**Closing remarks** Joy Phumaphi, Executive Secretary, ALMA