RBM Vector Control Working Group

Brief update of VCWG-20 annual meeting

3-5 March 2025 in Cotonou, Benin

ABOUT THE RBM VECTOR CONTROL WORKING GROUP

The Vector Control Working Group encompasses a diverse spectrum of stakeholders committed to advancing the efficacy of vector control in the fight against malaria. Serving as a platform for sharing research outcomes on both established and emerging tools, the VCWG facilitates dialogue on operational priorities in vector control and advocates for best practices that meet the needs of malaria-endemic countries. This collaborative effort harnesses the collective expertise of partners from national disease control programs, funding organizations, implementing agencies, research and academia, private-sector industry, and other stakeholders. This diversity fosters enriching dialogue, mutual learning, and the development of resilient responses tailored to the challenges of vector control. Moreover, by prioritizing collaboration with regional networks, the VCWG ensures that the specific needs of endemic regions are effectively addressed.

THIS YEAR, the RBM VCWG-20 meeting was held in Cotonou, Benin, with 338 participants (195 in person and 144 online). The delegates came from 48 countries, representing six WHO regions: African (AFR), Americas (AMR), Eastern Mediterranean (EMR), European (EUR), South-East Asian (SEAR), and Western Pacific (WPR) (Figures 1a & 1b).

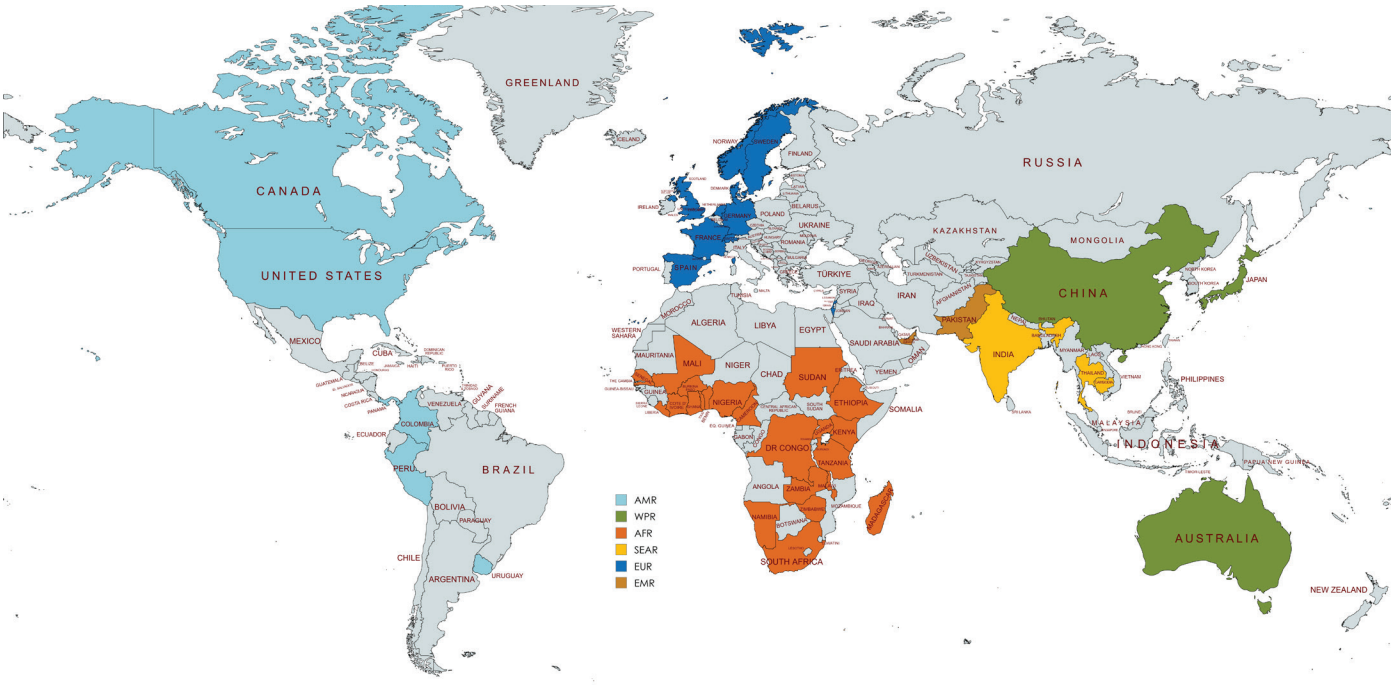


Figure 1a **Country Regions of Participants at VCWG-20**

AFR *Benin, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, DRC, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe*
EUR *Denmark, France, Germany, Israel, Netherlands, Norway, Reunion, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom*
AMR *Canada, Colombia, Panama, Peru, Uruguay, USA*
WPR *Australia, China, Japan*
SEAR *India, Thailand*
EMR *Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates*

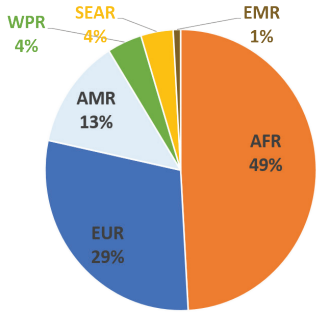


Figure 1b

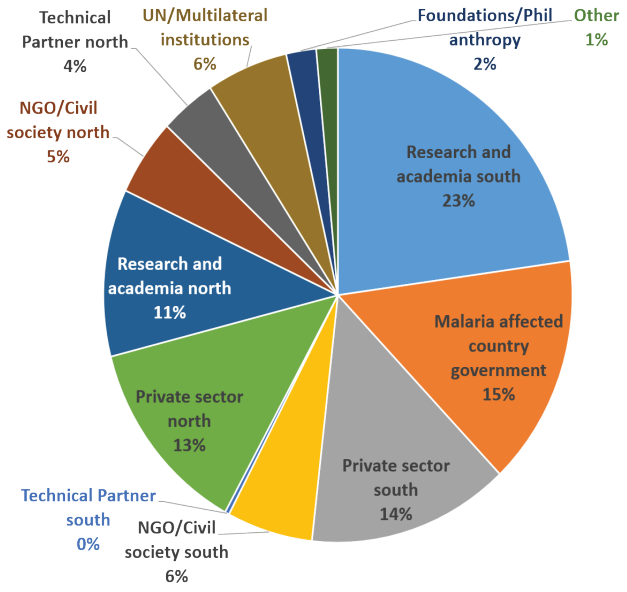


Figure 2 Constituencies at VCWG-20

CONSTITUENCIES

The constituency distribution shows strong representation from Research and Academia South (23%), Malaria-Affected Country Governments (15%), and the Private Sector (South: 14%, North: 13%). Research and Academia North (11%) and NGOs (South: 6%, North: 5%) have moderate engagement, while UN/Multilateral Institutions (6%) and Technical Partners North (4%) play smaller roles. Foundations/Philanthropy (2%), Other (1%), and Technical Partners South (0.3%) have the lowest representation. (Figure 2).

GENDER BALANCE

Figure 3 illustrates the gender distribution across various constituencies (67.8% male, 32% female, and 0.3% with no answer).

MALARIA-AFFECTED COUNTRIES

29 of the 48 represented countries were malaria-affected (see *Figure 4*) which accounted for 54.7% of all participants. Benin, Nigeria, Tanzania, Kenya, Ghana, India and Ethiopia made up the majority.

SPEAKERS

Under the theme "Anticipating Future Challenges in Malaria Vector Control," 75 speakers were counted. It indicates a level of active engagement, with 22% of the annual meeting participants being speakers.

SPONSORING

Despite the funding crisis, we successfully held the 20th VCWG Annual Meeting. A nominal registration fee was charged to help cover venue rental, catering, and technical requirements. Selected participants from affected countries were sponsored by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) through the GlobMal Phase 4 project at Swiss TPH. Additionally, the meeting featured an exhibition on vector control innovations, with eight companies and organizations (BASF, Goizper Group, MESTO, Mitsui, Sora Technology, Syngenta, Vestergaard) participating. These organizations also contributed to supporting country participation, and the IVCC sponsored the anniversary cocktail event.

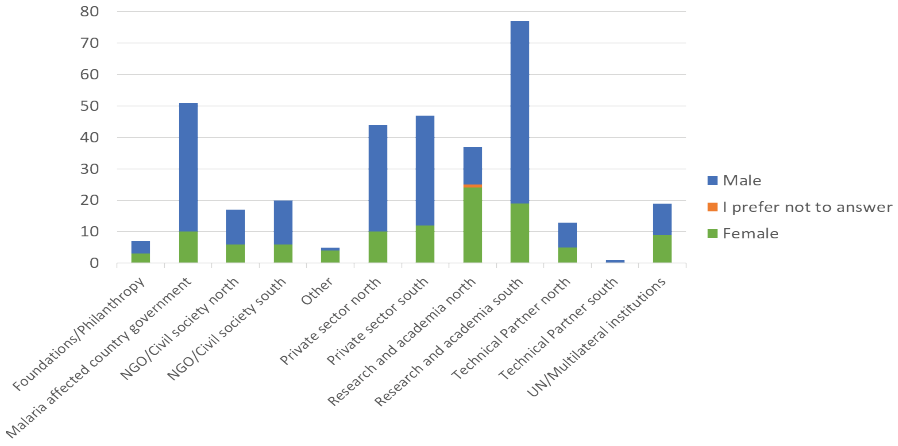


Figure 3 Gender and Constituencies at VCWG-20

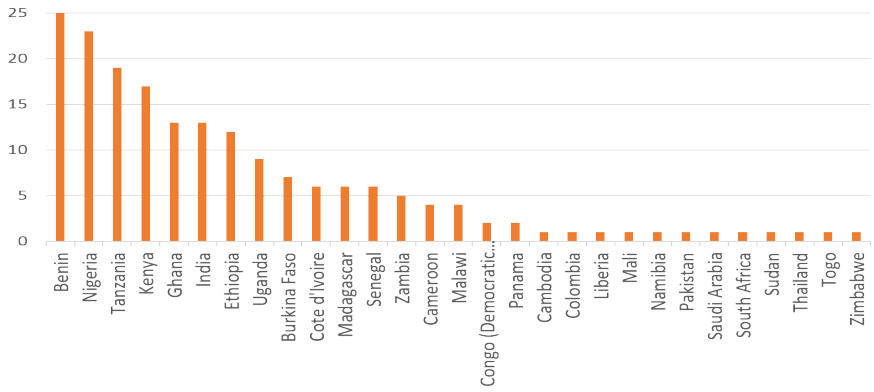


Figure 4 Malaria-affected countries at VCWG-20

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