RBM Vector Control Working Group

Brief update of VCWG-21 annual workshop

3-5 March 2026 in Nairobi, Kenya

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-21 workshop was held in Nairobi, Kenya, with 349 participants (304 in person and 45 online). The delegates came from 46 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).

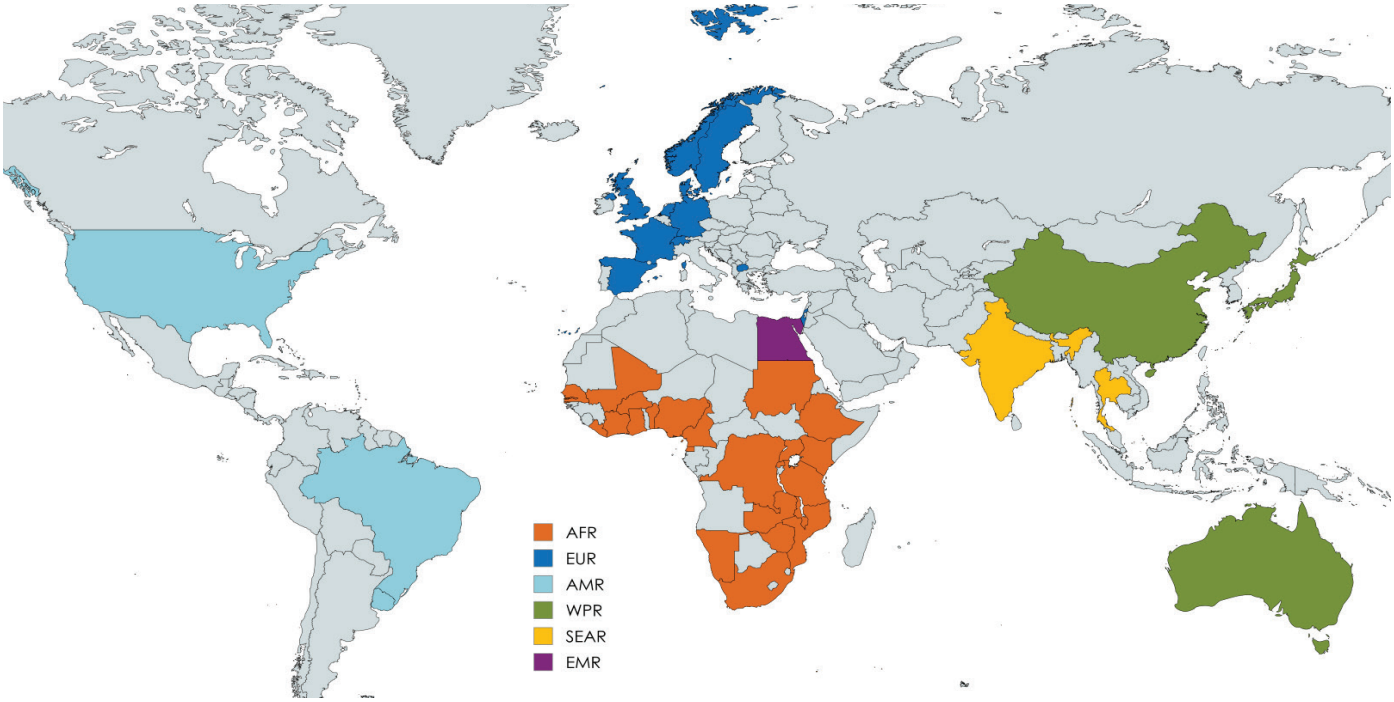


Figure 1a **Country Regions of Participants at VCWG-21**

AFR *Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe*
EUR *Denmark France, Germany, Israel, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom*
AMR *Brazil, United States of America (Minor Outlying Islands), Uruguay, USA*
WPR *Australia, China, Japan*
SEAR *India, Thailand*
EMR *Egypt*

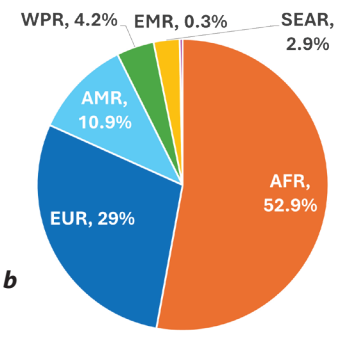


Figure 1b

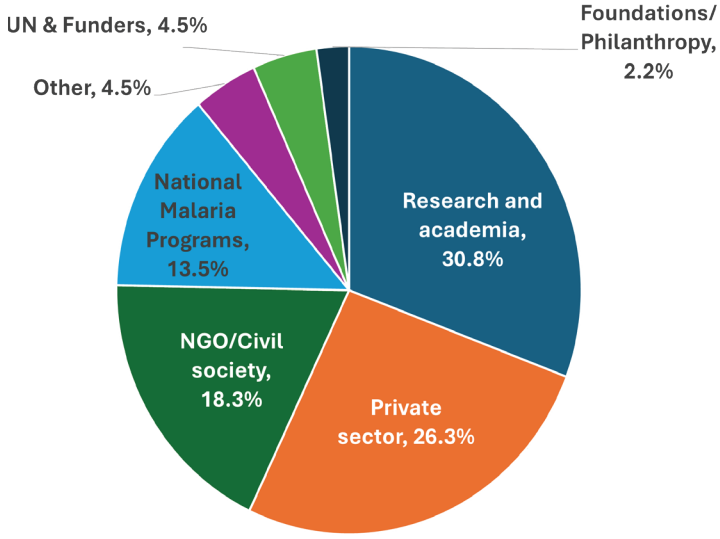


Figure 2 Constituencies at VCWG-21

CONSTITUENCIES

The constituency distribution shows strong representation from research and academia (30.8%), the private sector (26.3%), NGOs (18.3%), and national malaria programs (13.5%), as well as UN & funders (4.5%) and foundations & philanthropy (2.2%) (Figure 2).

GENDER BALANCE

Figure 3 illustrates the gender distribution (59% male, 41% female), with more female participatns than previous years.

MALARIA-AFFECTED COUNTRIES

28 of the 46 represented countries were malaria-affected (see *Figure 4*) which accounted for 56.1% of all participants. Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria, and Uganda made up the majority.

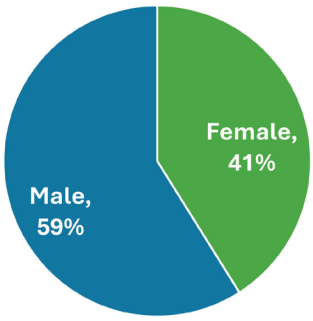


Figure 3 Gender at VCWG-21

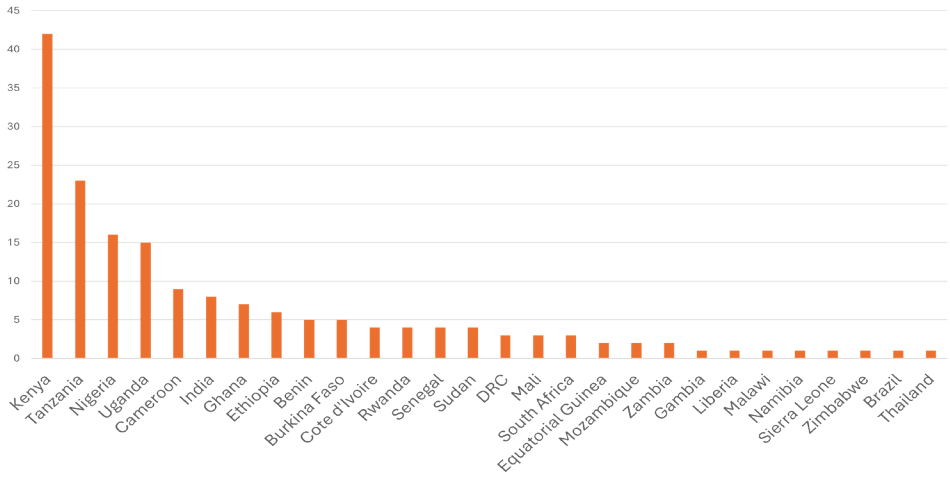


Figure 4 Malaria-affected countries at VCWG-21

SPEAKERS

Under the theme "Vector Control at a Crossroads: Innovating for Impact in a Resource Constrained Era" 78 speakers were counted. It indicates a level of active engagement, with 23.9% of the annual workshop participants being speakers.

SPONSORING

Despite the challenge in global health funding, we successfully held the 21st VCWG Annual Workshop. A 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, RBM Partnership to End Malaria, and twelve vector control exhibitors from private companies and research organizations (AIRID, CRID, Goizper Group, IVCC, MEDICO MAGRIX, MESTO, Mitsui Chemicals Crop & Life Solutions, Sora Technology, Syngenta, Vestergaard, V.K.A. Polymers, and YANCO). We sincerely thank all the exhibitors for their valuable contributions and support, which greatly enriched the 21st VCWG Annual Workshop.

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