RBM Partnership To End Malaria | Vector Control Working Group

FEEDBACK
21ST RBM VECTOR CONTROL WORKING GROUP ANNUAL WORKSHOP

THANK YOU

We sincerely appreciate everyone who contributed to the feedback for the 21st VCWG Annual Workshop. This year, the RBM VCWG-21 meeting took place in Nairobi, Kenya, bringing together 349 participants—304 attending in person and 45 joining online. We received feedback from 33%. The responses were overwhelmingly positive, and a summary of the key points is provided below. The organizers will review the results in detail and make every effort to address indicated areas for improvement for next year's Annual Workshop.

Regarding the results of the feedback survey, five-star satisfaction ratings are regarded as very satisfied, somewhat satisfied (4 stars), neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (3 stars), somewhat dissatisfied (2 stars) and very dissatisfied (1 star). In the survey, ratings of 4&5 stars are denoted as "satisfied".

OVERALL SATISFACTION

Overall satisfaction with VCWG-21 was high across most areas. When combining "very satisfied" and "somewhat satisfied" responses, the majority of participants were satisfied with the theme (98.9%), and quality of speakers (86.9%), reflecting strong approval of the meeting's content and delivery. Satisfaction was also strong for the quality of sessions (86.9%), exhibition fair (80.9%), number of sessions (82.1%), and number of presentations (75.0%), though some neutral responses suggest potential areas for refinement, particularly in balancing session load and presentation volume. See Figure 1. In contrast, e-posters had the lowest overall satisfaction (57.2%), with a significant proportion of neutral or dissatisfied responses, indicating challenges with visibility, engagement, and format. Overall, dissatisfaction was low across all categories, but improvements in e-poster management, session structure, and presentation scheduling could further enhance participant experience.

SESSIONS

Participants expressed high levels of satisfaction across all sessions, with combined "very satisfied" and "somewhat satisfied" responses ranging from 83.8% to 92.7%. The plenary session on introductions, objectives, and key updates, as well as Work Streams 1 and 2, received the highest satisfaction rates at over 92%, reflecting strong approval of both content and delivery. Work Stream 3 also performed well at 91.3%, while the IRS-focused workshop was slightly lower at 83.8%, indicating potential room for adjustments in format or timing.

ORGANIZATION

Participants reported very high satisfaction with the overall organization of the meeting. Satisfaction was highest for the online registration process (100%), followed by information provided (92.2%), the event

Figure 1: How satisfied are you with the theme, agenda, sessions, speakers, e-posters and exhibition fair?

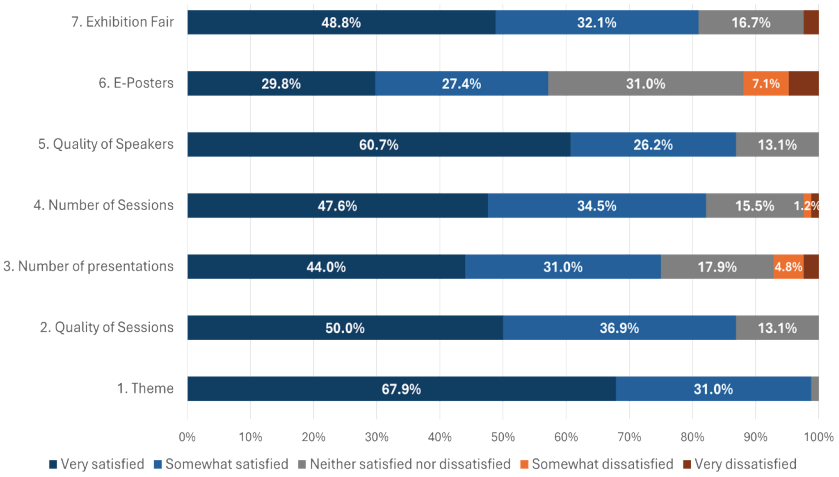


Figure 2: How satisfied are you with the organization?

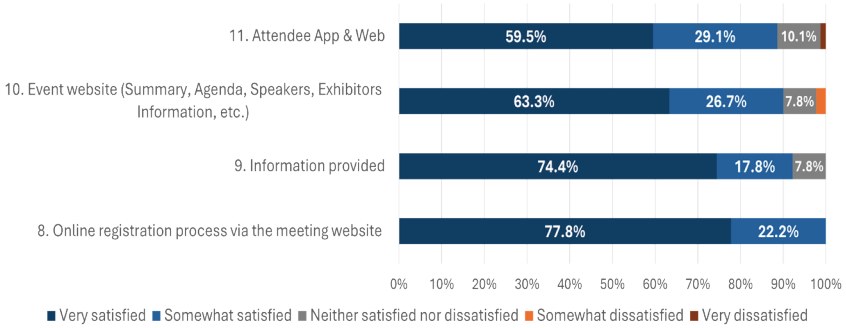
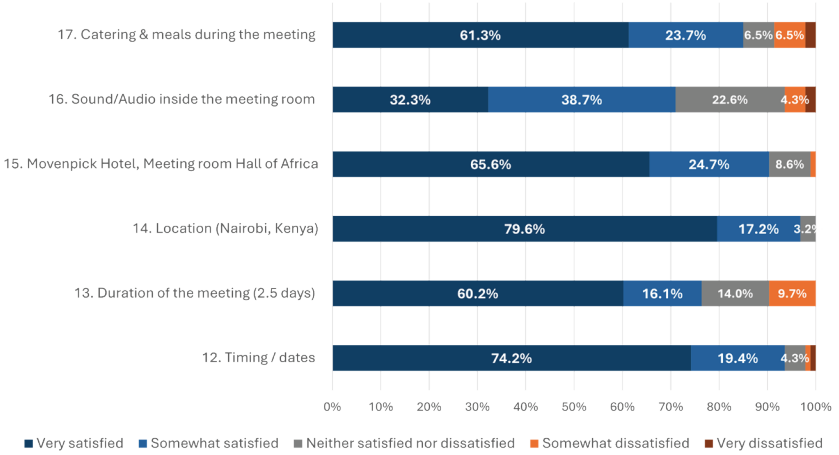


Figure 3: How satisfied are you with the dates and venue?



website (90.0%), and the attendee app & web platform (88.6%). These results indicate that organizational aspects—particularly registration and communication—were efficient, user-friendly, and well received, with only small areas for improvement in digital platforms. See Figure 2.

DATES & VENUE

Participants expressed generally high satisfaction with the meeting's dates and venue. Satisfaction was strongest for the location in Nairobi (96.8%) and timing/dates (93.6%), indicating these were well chosen and convenient for most attendees. The Mövenpick Hotel and meeting room (90.3%) and catering (85.0%) were also positively rated. Satisfaction with the duration of the meeting (76.3%) was slightly lower, with more neutral and some dissatisfied responses, suggesting that the 2.5-day format may have felt either too short or too dense. The sound/audio quality (71.0%) received the lowest satisfaction, with a notable proportion of neutral and dissatisfied responses, highlighting it as a key area for technical improvement. See Figure 3.

BEST LIKED

The mostly liked parts of the meeting were 1) Networking & Exchanges, followed by 2) Sessions, Contents & Speakers, 3) Organization, 4) Stakeholder Engagement & Diversity, and 5) Theme & Topic. See Figure 4.

1) Networking & Exchanges

Networking and informal discussions were a major highlight, allowing participants to connect globally and share experiences.

"Such a great opportunity to meet so many people from across the full breadth of malaria vector control."

"Networking with participants was very valuable."

"The chance to get together with colleagues across the globe, in person."

2) Sessions, Contents & Speakers

Participants valued the high-quality presentations, relevant topics, and expertise of the speakers.

"Quality of talks, variety of topics, networking."

"Informative presentations and products for vector control."

"Insightful sessions with strong technical and operational content."

3) Organization

The event was well-coordinated, with smooth logistics, good venue, and effective scheduling.

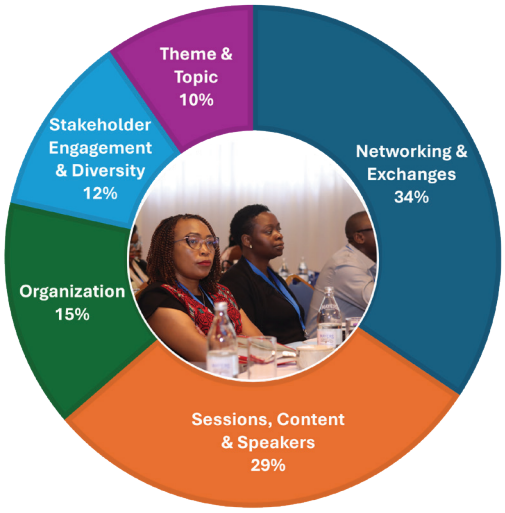
"Everything was well organized, and I appreciated the overall quality of the discussions and collaboration."

"The workshop provided a valuable platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration."

4) Stakeholder Engagement & Diversity

Participants appreciated the diversity of attendees and active involvement of NMCPs, partners, and funders.

Figure 4: Best Liked



"It was encouraging to see NMPs actively engaged, with participants asking practical and relevant questions."

"Diverse groups of people passionate about malaria elimination."

"The participation of several institutions and partner companies added value."

5) Theme & Topic

The topics and themes were relevant, timely, and well-aligned with emerging challenges in vector control.

"The program topics were very relevant."

"The balance between technical in-depth sessions and strategic presentations was excellent."

"New tools presentations and discussions were informative and practical."

KEY CONCERNS & AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Participants provided valuable feedback on areas where the VCWG-21 meeting could be enhanced. While overall satisfaction was high, several recurring themes emerged highlighting opportunities to improve session formats, engagement, organization, and logistics. The following points summarize the key concerns and areas for improvement identified by attendees:

Program & Schedule

The meeting schedule felt overly packed, particularly on the second day, which limited discussions and Q&A. Sessions were inconsistently timed, with some too long and others too short, making it difficult for participants to absorb the information. We have received suggestions:

- Reduce the number of presentations per session to avoid overload.
- Spread sessions more evenly across days, considering parallel sessions where appropriate.
- Allocate dedicated time for discussion, Q&A, and interactive engagement after each session.
- Consider longer or dedicated sessions for workstreams and specific topics.

Interactivity & Engagement

Opportunities for open discussions, audience questions, and small group interactions were limited. Panel discussions were often ineffective, with low audience engagement, and virtual participants experienced minimal interaction. There was a general need for more debates, interactive sessions, and practical engagement. There were several suggestions:

- Introduce moderated debates, small breakout groups, and interactive sessions.
- Use digital tools (e.g., polls, Menti.com) to facilitate audience participation.
- Encourage practical examples and operational lessons from NMCPs, private sector, and host countries.
- Shift towards a workshop-style format: shorter presentations, longer discussion, hands-on exercises.

Presentations & Content

There were too many presentations, sometimes repetitive or difficult to follow. Some slides or country presentations lacked clarity and focus, and the content occasionally lacked practical relevance or actionable insights. Virtual and online presentations struggled to engage remote participants effectively.

- Prioritize plenary sessions with high impact, avoiding repeated content.
- Focus on operational lessons, proper use of vector control tools, and innovative approaches.
- Diversify topics to include other vector-borne diseases, climate change impacts, technology demonstrations, and community-level effects.
- Standardize operational data collection and monitoring approaches across presentations.

E-Posters and Exhibition Fairs

E-posters suffered from poor visibility and timing, limiting engagement from attendees. There were not enough screens or prominence given to posters, and exhibition pitches scheduled at the end reduced the opportunity for participants to visit booths.

- Allocate dedicated, well-timed slots for e-poster sessions.
- Place posters in highly visible locations (entrances, exhibition halls).
- Reduce posters per screen or provide more screens for simultaneous viewing.
- Provide guidance to exhibitors for booth setup and short presentation slots before the fair begins.
- Consider printed posters alongside e-posters for better engagement.

Participation & Representation

Some key countries and programs were absent and event timing conflicted with cultural or religious observances, which may have affected participation and diversity of perspectives.

- Encourage broader participation from countries, NMPs, local governments, private sector, and students.
- Offer travel awards or incentives for wider participation.
- Consider scheduling around major observances to maximize attendance.

Other Suggestions and Comments

While registration was generally smooth and user-friendly, participants suggested sharing the agenda, meeting materials, and links earlier to allow better planning and preparation, particularly for those in different time zones. Maintaining both online and on-site registration options, including late registrations, was appreciated, but hybrid participation and networking opportunities could be strengthened. Participants recommended shifting the overall format toward a more participant-driven approach, with shorter presentations, longer discussions, breakout sessions, and practical exercises. Extending the meeting duration or reducing daily session hours could help prevent information overload, while field trips, demonstrations, and interactive sessions would enhance experiential learning. Greater engagement of first-time attendees, sponsors, and remote participants was also suggested to maximize the value of the meeting.



Group photo from VCWG-21 in Nairobi

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