WHAT WE HAVE BEEN UP TO SINCE JUNE 2023

CS4ME is a global platform of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and communities that contribute to malaria elimination, with 649 members in 48 countries. Our mission is to make malaria programs more effective, sustainable, community-based, rights-based, equitable and inclusive.

In this newsletter, we will see that throughout June to September 2023, CS4ME has been working in the field with several different organizations and partners such as National Malaria Control Programs (NMCP), Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCM), World Health Organization (WHO), PATH, etc. to continue to strengthen the fight against malaria at the national and regional levels.

SUMMARY OF THE NEWSLETTER

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CS4ME GOVERNANCE

INSIDE OUR PARTNERS ACTIVITIES
Amu Mudenda was born and raised in Zambia, where he grew up with a strong sense of community and a desire to help others. In 2017, he became a practitioner with the National Malaria Elimination Programme where he coordinated Social Behavioural Change (SBC) activities and developed strategic materials that helped to raise awareness about malaria. As a result of his efforts, he had the opportunity to serve as the National Advocacy Coordinator with the Faith Leader Advocacy for Malaria Elimination (FLAME) in Zambia. He was in charge of the equipment for over a thousand faith leaders including Christians, Bahai, Muslim and Hindu faiths with the skills necessary to effect positive change in their communities. FLAME is a coalition of faith leaders that is currently active in three countries: Angola, Namibia, and Zambia. As part of their efforts to advocate and raise awareness about malaria, they recently organized a public march in Lusaka, Zambia, to coincide with World Mosquito Day. It resulted in the commitment of the Minister of Justice, who is also a member of parliament for Lusaka Central, Mr Mulambo Haimbe, to improve health financing and enhance the quality of healthcare services.

The Community, Rights and Gender (GRG) is an initiative whose objective is to strengthen the engagement of civil society and communities most affected by Malaria, Tuberculosis and HIV in the Global Fund and related processes.

Niger: Women need more support in the fight against malaria

This was an observation made on the field during the CS4ME CRG project evaluation which took place in Niger, in July 2023.

As part of the evaluation of the CRG project in Niger, Impact Santé Afrique (ISA) held a working session on July 14, 2023 with beneficiaries from the Tillaberi region. The meeting brought together representatives of the Mayor of Tillaberi, religious leaders, traditional chiefs, Community Health Workers (CHWs), scouts, youth, and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

Among the points discussed, informations on the needs of women in the Tillaberi commune who came together in a group called «Zaada Yan onda», revealed a clear reduction in complaints regarding the behavior of men in the fight against malaria. Despite the reduction in their complaints, women, even when
pregnant, still receive no help from men with household chores, which can last until late at night, exposing them to mosquito bites and reducing their ability to put children under mosquito nets in time.

It was also noted that men prefer self-medication in the event of fever, as they feel that health establishments are penny-pinchers that empty their pockets, despite the possibility of free malaria treatment for pregnant women and children under 5.

In conclusion, it was noted that the results above are all the fruit of the participation of the religious and traditional leaders. Therefore, it was recommended to intensify awareness-raising among men, who still have too much influence over health-related decisions in couples, to even raise more awareness among health authorities for the effective application of free treatment for pregnant women and children under 5, and to train the Tillaberi communal council on how to take human rights and gender into account in the fight against malaria.

Work session with beneficiaries on July 14, 2023 at Tillaberi town hall

**TASK FORCE PNLP-CS4ME CAMEROON**

**CAMEROON: Second 2023 quarterly meeting of the National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) - Civil Society For Malaria Elimination TaskForce Cameroon**

The National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) and Impact Santé Afrique/CS4ME Secretariat organized the second quarterly meeting of the National Malaria Control Program - Civil Society for Malaria Elimination Cameroon Task Force on Wednesday 21 June 2023 in Yaoundé, Cameroon. This meeting aimed at sharing experiences and lessons learned on the involvement of civil society and partners in the preparation of Cameroon’s malaria Grant Cycle 7 application.

16 participants took part in the meeting, including two representatives of the National Malaria Control Program (the Deputy Permanent Secretary and the head of the Information, Education Communication and Social Marketing (IEC MS) and Partnership sections), 12 civil society organizations members of Civil Society For Malaria Elimination and some partners (Breakthrough Action, Plan International Cameroon...)

At the end of the meeting, the key recommendations were to:

- Create an online form by Impact Santé Afrique to be completed by all Civil Society Organizations within 24 hours for
NIGER: Fruitful working session with the permanent secretary of Niger's country coordinating mechanisms (CCM)

During the meeting, the lack of malaria Sub Recipient (SR) in the current New Funding Model 3 (NFM3) grant was deplored. It was revealed that the reasons for this situation are mainly the inability of Nigerian civil society to manage and implement projects financed by donors such as the Global Fund. However, at the end of the working session, it was mentioned that the Country Coordinating Mechanism is committed to support ISA in any undertaking along these lines in Niger and that a presentation of the Community Rights and Gender (CRG) project should be scheduled to all stakeholders in the fight against malaria in Niger. This will facilitate greater ownership of the project by civil society and bodies such as the National Malaria Control Program and other technical and financial partners.

REGIONAL GC7

As part of its efforts to improve the contribution of malaria civil society to the Grant Cycle 7 (GC7) malaria concept note development process, Impact Santé Afrique (ISA) as the CS4ME Secretariat, has received support from the Global Fund to provide technical and financial assistance to CS4ME members in participating in national malaria funding application development processes. The countries concerned by this support are Benin, Cameroon, Congo (Brazzaville), Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.

Francophone Regional Meeting: CS4ME Unites Voices in Cotonou for Malaria Fight

In a recent gathering in Cotonou - Benin, in March 2023, civil society representatives from francophone countries joined forces under CS4ME to tackle malaria head-on. The meeting, hosted by Impact Santé Afrique (ISA), brought together 28 participants...
This collective effort exemplifies the impactful collaboration within CS4ME, emphasizing the importance of shared knowledge and community-driven strategies in addressing global health challenges.

As part of the process of developing Grant Cycle 7 concept notes, some countries have received a grant from the Global Fund to develop and submit their malaria, HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis funding applications by the deadline of 2023, according to the timetable communicated to each country. To this end, financial support has been allocated from 20 organizations across Benin, Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Niger, DRC, and Senegal. Their mission: to better coordinate efforts and enhance the quality of contributions in developing the Global Fund’s GC7 malaria country concept notes for 2023.

The meeting featured informative sessions by global health experts and collaborative discussions among CSO leaders, resulting in the creation of the «Cotonou Declaration., with strong recommendations that can be applied by any civil society actor involved in the CG7 process in their respective countries.

Read the declaration here. 

[Image of the workshop to evaluate civil society's contribution to the process of preparing Cameroon's malaria funding request to the Global Fund]
to malaria civil society organizations in several African countries, to support actions aimed at improving the quality of the contribution and participation of malaria civil society in the preparation and development of Global Fund country concept notes - Grant Cycle 7 in 2023.

Cameroon is one of the countries to have received this support and has set up a working group called «Civil Society Organizations Malaria Grant Cycle 7 Cameroon», bringing together key civil society actors working in the fight against malaria, to coordinate and strengthen the contribution of malaria civil society in support of the Country Coordinating Mechanism throughout the Grant Cycle 7 process in Cameroon.

At the end of this 6-month project, Impact Santé Afrique organized a workshop on Wednesday, 07 June 2023 in Yaoundé, to evaluate the contribution of malaria civil society during this process. 20 participants attended the workshop including the Permanent Secretary of the Country Coordinating Mechanism, the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the National Malaria Control Program, the First Vice-President of the Country Coordinating Mechanism, 01 representative of Plan International Cameroon and 16 representatives of malaria civil society organizations who are members of the working group.

The key recommendations of the workshop were to engage civil society organizations in reviewing the narrative of the funding request (activities, annexes, budget, etc.) before the Global Fund country team arrives; to find mechanisms for civil society to participate in the various negotiations; to follow up with the National Malaria Control Program and the Country Coordinating Mechanism and share the documents of the technical committee reviewing the proposals with civil society as soon as they are available.

**GC7 - Benin: Review and Accountability Workshop on CSO and Community Participation in the Global Fund’s GC7 Funding Request Writing Process**

On June twenty-second 2023 took place in Cotonou, Benin, the debriefing and accountability workshop on the participation of CSOs and communities in the stages of the Global Fund’s GC7 Funding Request drafting process. The workshop brought together several participants from civil society organizations involved in the fight against malaria.

The aim of the workshop was to take stock of the various ways in which malaria civil society has been involved in the Global Fund's Request for Applications process, through the CS4ME technical assistant.

Specifically, the aim was to take stock of the implementation of the CS4ME GC7 Benin project through ASSAP-TB/BENIN “Association des Anciens Patients Tuberculeux du Bénin”; and to present the activities carried out during the process and the malaria activities officially selected for submission of the GC7 funding application.

The main points of the workshop were as follows:

- Presentation of the assessment of CSO and community participation in the development of GC7 (NOTE CS4ME GC7 BENIN)
- Update on the implementation of the CS4ME GC7 Benin project.

Plenary session of the workshop to evaluate civil society’s contribution to the process of preparing Cameroon’s malaria funding request to the Global Fund, Djeuga Palace, 07 June 2023
At the end of this workshop, the following points emerged as the major results of malaria civil society's participation in the GC7 process in Benin:

- Good collaboration, support and accompaniment from the NMCP;
- Basic mapping of malaria CSOs available and provided by the PNLP and Speak up Africa;
- Better support for the National Coordinating Body and the National Committee for the Fight against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria;
- Availability of the community expert for the implementation of activities;
- Availability and good collaboration of CSOs for consultations and participation in the various workshops.

Despite these strengths, certain difficulties were highlighted, such as the low technical contribution of CSOs and the conflicting agendas of the GC7 process and CS4ME Technical Assistance activities. However, in terms of prospects, it is planned to carry out:

- Finalizing the administrative formalities for registering the Zero Palu coalition with the Ministry of the Interior;
- Drawing up administrative and financial procedure manuals;
- Organizing periodic physical meetings to review activities;
- Organizing capacity-building, experience-sharing, capitalization and sustainability sessions;
- Mobilizing financial resources.

**STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES OF CIVIL SOCIETY**

Malaria Civil Society Coffee Talk: sharing experience of civil society

The goal of the coffee talk is to encourage learning between peers from different countries, i.e. to learn how others work in their own countries, what challenges and constraints they face, and what lessons and good practices they can share with others. This enables members to inspire and motivate each other to become more involved in the fight against malaria.

The second session of the malaria civil society coffee talk took place on June 15, 2023. CSOs from Benin, Cameroon, Madagascar and Senegal shared their experience. As their predecessors did during the first session, they highlighted how they participated in the GC7 Global Fund process in terms of activities, challenges they faced and how they handled them. 51 participants attended this webinar. On April 6 panelists noted that the civil society representatives who participate in this process, especially those who are part of Country Coordination Mechanism, must be sufficiently competent and qualified to represent civil society. During the June session, it was also noticed the importance of ensuring that communities' priority activities are taken into...
serve as external platform champions to help amplify CS4ME’s voice and presence. During this meeting, the CS4ME Secretariat presented the key CS4ME achievement during the last 6 months:

- An overview of the CS4ME GC7 project to support civil society participation in Global Fund concept notes process with the new tools developed for civil society to enhance their participation on Global Fund process and the CS4ME training webinars organized for civil society
- The CS4ME south to south collaboration mechanism via the Malaria CS4ME coffee talks conferences through CSOs exchanges experiences on their involvement in GC7 processes and learned the best practices
- The progress in setting up CS4ME working groups: with the work of the Advocacy and Communication working group which worked on the Declaration and key messages for CS4ME during World Malaria Day 2023 and also the CCM working group members who discussed about the challenges they face in CCM and learn together how to address these challenges
- The CS4ME engagement during World Malaria Day: CS4ME 2023 statement, the broadcast of key advocacy messages by CS4ME members with the toolkit dedicated
- The CS4ME Global malaria civil society forum 2023: which permit CSOs to learn about the the current malaria situation AND CHALLENGES from WHO global malaria programs, the newest technology about mosquito nets, the results of GENE DRIVE, how to Prevent malaria in newborns with IPTn+, the Community-Led Monitoring, the Artemisinin resistance, the Monoclonal Antibodies and other update about the fight against malaria.

In the main time, they also presented the CS4ME’s perspectives for the upcoming months of the year 2023 which are in line or in continuity
with the strategic objectives of CS4ME such as capacity building, the setting up of working groups (CS4ME technical group and capacity building working group), strengthening NMCP and civil society through their task force.

After this presentation, the CS4ME Secretariat got some feedback especially from The Global Fund about GC7 CSOs engagement processes. They asked how CSOs were provided with technical assistance for costing during this process. The CS4ME secretariat responded by saying that in each of the 9 countries involved in the project, there were 2 community experts who supported civil society in all technical aspects relating to the drafting of Global Fund malaria concept notes. The Global Fund also highlighted the fact that civil society and communities must have a strong feedback process with CCM members, as these are their first points of contact with the Global Fund, especially now that grant making is about to begin in the countries.

Launch of 2 CS4ME working groups: technical working group and capacity-building working group

For CS4ME activities to move forward, it is important that responsibilities are shared between CS4ME members. That’s why CS4ME has launched two working groups that bring together various members of the movement from different countries and backgrounds.

These working groups ensure that different voices and perspectives are taken into account in the design, planning, implementation, review and improvement of the work of Civil Society for Malaria Elimination (CS4ME).

Following the call for applications to join 2 strategic groups: the CS4ME Technical Group and the Civil Society for Malaria Elimination (CS4ME) Capacity Building Working Group (launched in June 2023), many Civil Society for Malaria Elimination (CS4ME) members have expressed their willingness to join the working groups.

To this end, the launch meetings of the CS4ME Technical Group and the CS4ME Capacity Building Working Group were held on 5 and 6 September, with 19 and 13 participants respectively. At the same time, working group members expressed the need for Internet support to compensate for their difficulties in accessing online. The next steps after these two meetings are the appointment of chairs and co-chairs and the development of a work plan for the last three months of the year.
A new action plan for Cameroon’s National Coordination Mechanism civil society delegation

Communities affected by and living with HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, and civil society, have been at the heart of everything the Global Fund has worked for since its inception. Indeed, since its creation in 2022, the Global Fund has been strongly advocating for increased resources to fight the three diseases, with the support of thousands of community and civil society groups actively involved at all levels of Global Fund activities, from policy development to program implementation. They continue to advocate for a rights-based and gender-equitable fight against the three diseases.

At the country level, community and civil society representatives play an active role in the decision-making process by sitting on the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM), the national body responsible for formulating funding requests and overseeing the implementation of allocated grants. In addition to sitting on the CCM, communities and civil society organizations are actively involved in country-level dialogue on the measures to be taken to combat AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, ensuring a thorough and mobilizing debate.

Intending to strengthen this life-saving engagement of communities in global fund processes, the CCM civil society delegation organized a workshop to develop the civil society delegation action plan: «Keeping communities at the center of the response to the three diseases».

The overall objective of this workshop was to structure community participation in Global Fund processes within the general framework of the civil society response to the three diseases and the more specific framework of the CCM. The workshop was held from Monday 18 to Saturday 23 September 2023 in Ebolowa. An action plan was drawn up through group work in which objectives, expected results, activities, indicators and means of verification were defined. This work resulted in the production of 4 action plans, which were consolidated on the final day of the workshop into a single action plan for the CCM Cameroon Civil Society Delegation. The next step is to proceed with the final validation of the 2023-2025 action plan for the CCM Cameroon Civil Society Delegation.

Shaping the development of the malaria vaccine research agenda

On Thursday 21 September 2023, the Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) and PATH, in collaboration with World Health Organisation (WHO) and GAVI, hosted an interesting webinar with Civil Society Organisations (CSO) to gather input to shape the development of the malaria vaccine research agenda.

Session objectives

1. Provide background on the purpose, objectives, and process of developing the malaria vaccine research agenda.
2. Gather CSO members’ input on potential implementation challenges and knowledge gaps for the rollout and scale-up of the malaria vaccine and priority research topics to address the identified challenges and gaps.

A view of the participants during the workshop in Ebolowa, Cameroon

A view of the session objectives
vaccine research agenda. The webinar aimed to gather the views of civil society organizations on the key challenges to implement the next roll-out of the malaria vaccine, and the priority themes that would address these challenges.

During the webinar, the KHRC and PATH presented the background for the research agenda, including the purpose and objectives of the agenda. But also, the approach used to identify priority topics. They also gathered feedback from Civil Society Organisations on the priority research topics that will be used to inform the agenda.

Participants included members of the Civil Society for Malaria Elimination (CS4ME) technical group, who gave their views on the subject under discussion. The topics discussed were: barriers to vaccine implementation, factors in community acceptability of the malaria vaccine, strategies to ensure equitable access to the vaccine when it is rolled out, particularly to reach hard-to-reach populations, opportunities to integrate vaccination with other important child health interventions, and other topics that can be addressed through research on this vaccine.


Some of the participants during the workshop in Soa, Cameroon

Presentation of the concept and operating methods of the Free Effective and Sustainable Malaria Purchasing Fund (FAGEP) mechanism

A two day workshop organized by Deutsche Gesellschaft, was held from the 27 to the 28 september in Soa, Cameroon. The objective of the workshop was to present the concept and all the operating methods of their initiative : the Fonds d’achat de gratuité effective et durable du paludisme mechanism.

The project aimed to reduce malaria-related mortality in mothers and children under the age of 5.

Representatives of the following organizations were present: National Malaria Control Program(NMCP), the Prime Ministry, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Positive Generation, Synergie de capitalisation des actions de la Société Civile et de suivi des politiques publiques (RESIPAT), Universal Health Coverage National technical committee , Fonds des Nations Unies pour l’Enfance (UNICEF), Ministry of Communication (MINCOM), Ministry of Health, Impact Sante Afrique (ISA), National Coalition for Health Financing and Universal Health Coverage (COFIS-CSU), Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (SWISS TPH), Fonds Régional Pour La Promotion De La Santé SUD (FRPS SUD), Jeunesse Active pour Lutter contre la pauvreté, le VIH/SIDA et ses Souffrances (JAPSSO) and many others.

During the two-day workshop, several plenary presentations and group work/restitutions were given on the various aspects of the project, such as the integration of the Fund for the purchase of effective and sustainable free malaria treatment into the Universal Health Coverage, the methods for managing free supplies and the methods for paying for services.

The costing carried out by certain experts from the Universal Health Coverage National Technical Committee on the provision of free treatment for simple and severe malaria in children under the age of 5 showed a gap of 56 billion for Cameroon for this effective provision.
Mark your calendars for our upcoming events:

- **November 2023:** CS4ME malaria Coffee talk
- **November 2023:** 4th quarterly meeting of the National Malaria Control Program - Civil Society CS4ME Taskforce
- **November 2023:** Steering Committee Meeting
- **December 2023:** Friends of CS4ME

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