

CIVIL SOCIETY FOR MALARIA ELIMINATION GLOBAL PLATFORM

**Human rights, gender integration and equity in the fight against malaria
must become an urgent reality!**

April 23, 2024

On this day, April 23, 2024, marking the Annual Forum of the Civil Society Platform for Malaria Elimination (CS4ME) and in the run-up to World Malaria Day on April 25, 2024 under the theme «Health Equity, Gender Equality and Human Rights».

We, Civil Society Organization under the global platform CS4ME, whose mission is to strengthen, organize, engage and empower civil society and affected communities to be creative and bold catalysts for change, in order to accelerate the elimination of malaria.

We are committed to making malaria programs gender focused, right based and equitable.

Convinced that to achieve this goal, we must implement initiatives that promote respect for human rights, such as ensuring that free or low-cost services and care are available to all targeted populations, and that all populations, regardless of location, have access to quality malaria control services,

Acknowledging the efforts and progress made and being made by our governments, and all actors involved in the fight against malaria,

Wishing for a commitment to gender mainstreaming to better take into account the socio-cultural contexts of populations and the key role of women in the response to malaria,

We therefore advocate gender mainstreaming, with community participation in decision-making on the development of strategies and the implementation of interventions to fight malaria as a guarantee.

We emphasize the need for malaria control services to be administered equitably to all population groups in their context. In situations of crisis and humanitarian conflicts, pandemic and climate change impacts; this implies that displaced populations, refugees, people deprived of their freedom or people with disabilities must be taken into account in prevention activities such as the distribution of LLINs, prevention services for pregnant women and children, as well as the proper management of malaria for all.

We reiterate that «everyone has the right to benefit from all high-quality existing preventive and treatment measures to fight malaria», so that no life is lost to malaria.

We therefore call on decision-makers in the fight against malaria to:

- **Identify and address** barriers to access of quality malaria services for the vulnerable populations, including displaced persons, refugees, orphans, and those with disabilities and all others groups. Consider advocating for targeted interventions to reach these groups, such as mobile clinics or community outreach programs.

- **Reach** the «20%» of the population who are not reached by malaria control services, as most national malaria control strategic plans aim to reach 80% of the population. This could include monitoring and evaluation frameworks to track progress towards reaching marginalized populations and ensuring that their rights are respected throughout the process.
- **Respect** the human rights of all people in need of malaria control services and products, without any form of marginalization;
- **Respect** free anti-malarial services for the intended targets.
- **Ensure** a quality of care that guarantees respect for people's human rights, whatever their social status;
- **Encourage** the integration of gender perspectives into all aspects of programming, including decision-making processes, workforces, resource allocation, and service delivery.
- **Offer** malaria control services in strict compliance with human rights.
- **Translate** slogans into actions via concrete investments in interventions and policies to reduce gender, social human right barriers that affect access to malaria services.
- **Support** the establishment in all malaria endemic countries: Community led monitoring independent systems led by local CSOs to ensure feedback are collected from the beneficiaries of malaria services on the effectiveness of such services to ensure we leave no one behind.

As civil society, we pledge to continue our relentless advocacy at all levels so that we can achieve these objectives, because human rights, respect for gender and equity cannot be guaranteed without the significant commitment of the community at both strategic and operational levels. It is by ensuring that these measures are respected in all malaria control policies that we will be able to attest to universal access to malaria control services and products, and thereby believe in the imminent elimination of malaria worldwide.

As civil society, we are determined to work closely with governments, partners, international agencies, local leaders, scientists, private sector and other stakeholders to ensure malaria programs are equitable, rights-based, gender transformative and lead to greater impact **urgently**.

Declaration adopted at the Annual Forum of the Civil Society for Malaria Elimination

April 23, 2024

For more information

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