Ensuring that the needs of vulnerable populations are included in malaria programs
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Foreword

In 2022, there were estimated 249 million malaria cases globally, exceeding the pre-pandemic level of 233 million in 2019 by 16 million cases. In addition to the disruptions caused by COVID-19, the global malaria response has faced a growing number of threats, such as drug and insecticide resistance, humanitarian crises, resource constraints, climate change impacts and delays in programme implementation particularly in countries with a high burden of the disease. Meanwhile, in the 11 countries that carry the highest burden of malaria particular in Africa, rates of new infections and deaths. These countries, supported through the WHO “High burden to high impact” approach, saw an estimated 167 million malaria cases and 426,000 deaths in 2022.

Why CS4ME

As one of its kind and first global network of civil society for malaria elimination (CS4ME) established in 2018 aimed to bring together civil societies and amplify the voice of communities in the fight against malaria, CS4ME together with partners has achieved a tremendous impact in saving lives from Malaria. Among the actions conducted with great impacts include the advocacy for the increase of resource allocation to eliminate Malaria, capacity building to CS4ME members, support members to engage in and are members of various regional and global bodies like Global Fund and RBM partnership to End Malaria. CS4ME together with partners have achieved the progress in the fight against Malaria; new tools have been developed and deployed including Malaria vaccine trials, RDTs, LLINs and other new treatments which contributed to the reduce of 50% of Malaria Mortality in just 15 years. Showing it’s possible to end Malaria once and for all and remain a history.

Challenges available

Despite the tremendous progress made; globally, particular Africa is now facing a serious challenges in the fight against Malaria. We have witnessed serious resistances related to malaria treatments with drug resistance cases, climate change impacts associated by floods that affect behavior of mosquitos and vector control, biological threat of new species that disrupt health services and community health systems, pandemic like COVID 19 impacts, shrinking of funding for Malaria interventions, conflicts and crisis that hinders provision of Malaria services to the communities.

Currently malaria is rising again and taking the lives of many people particular children under age of 5 and pregnant mother mainly in Africa. We all know that Malaria is preventable and curable but only if there is enough financial investment, meaningful
engagement of communities, strengthened health systems and development of malaria tools like vaccines to end malaria. It’s time to change the story and fight for what it counts to save the lives of our people.

A call for action

When reading this an interactive and yet full of CS4ME members in action report let us remind ourselves on the impact created, lives saved from Malaria disease and the need to increase more efforts on innovative and sustainable ways to fight against Malaria for the safer planet. I sincerely call all stakeholders to continue keep engaged among each other and forge a mutual collaboration from all levels in the fight against Malaria in their countries starting from local community level to national, regional and globally level.

Again, I emphasize all Malaria CSOs and communities most affected by Malaria to continue remind their government leaders, members of parliaments and community at large to increase resource allocation to the fight against Malaria.

To our esteemed partners and friends of CS4ME, your support is always appreciated and we are honored to have you in our journey to fight against Malaria and save the lives of the people.

Let us fight for what it counts to save the lives of our people from Malaria disease.

I am that story, be that story to change the story.

Tumainiel Mangi
Member of the CS4ME Steering Committee
Executive Director of Health for Children Organization (HeCO)
Ensuring that the needs of vulnerable populations are included in malaria programs

Acronyms

ACOMIN  Civil Society in Malaria Control, Immunization and Nutrition
AIDS    Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ASOS    Action Socio-sanitaire Organisation Secours
ASSAP TB Association des Anciens Patients Tuberculeux du Bénin
CCM     Country Coordinating Mechanism
CLM     Community Led Monitoring
CRG     Community, Rights and Gender
CS4ME   Civil Society For Malaria Elimination
CSO     Civil Society Organization
CSVA    Comité de Suivi, de Veille et d’Alerte pour le Financement de la Santé
ESCAVI  Education, Santé et Amélioration du Cadre de Vie
GC7     Grant Cycle 7
HIV     Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ISA     Impact Santé Afrique
LA PLATEFORME Plateforme de réseaux et organisations faitières pour la lutte contre le VIH/SIDA, la tuberculose et le paludisme
NFM     New Funding Model
NGO     Non Governmental Organization
NHDP    National Health Development Plan
NMCP    National Malaria Control Program
NSP     National Strategic Plan
POALP   Plateforme des Organisations et Associations de lutte contre le Paludisme au Congo
PR      Principal Récipient
RACOJ   Réseau des Associations et Organisations des Jeunes congolais
RENAPE  Réseau National des Positifs du Congo
ROPPCI  Réseau des Organisations de Populations clés de Côte d’Ivoire
RSSH    Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health
TB      Tuberculosis
Introduction

Since its creation in 2019, the Civil Society for Malaria Elimination (CS4ME) network has been working to strengthen and unite malaria civil society so that it can be a key actor of change towards the elimination of malaria. Indeed, the 2021-2025 strategic plan has further clarified the role of each and every one involved, and given clear direction to the platform’s operations.

The year 2023 was marked in many countries by the development of Global Fund malaria concept notes for Grant Cycle 7 (GC7). CS4ME has not been left behind, and has followed the contribution of civil society in 9 countries (Niger, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Nigeria, Benin, Congo Brazzaville, Madagascar and Democratic Republic of Congo). One of CS4ME’s primary roles is to build the capacity of civil society. This was the case again this year, with several training sessions organized and the production of several tools. CS4ME’s role is also to draw the attention of leaders to ensure the implementation of policies in favor of the fight against malaria. Civil society’s advocacy was essentially focused on taking into account the needs of vulnerable populations. In terms of governance, the Steering Committee continued to provide strategic support to the Secretariat through their participation in quarterly meetings.

The launch of 2 working groups (capacity building and technical group) enabled members to become more involved in the platform’s activities, thus contributing to the effectiveness and efficiency of CS4ME’s actions. In terms of partnerships, the year was marked by the integration of CS4ME members into the RBM Board and their participation in regional NMCP strategy meetings.

This report presents the results and activities according to the CS4ME’s objectives below:

- **Strengthen** CS4ME member capacity and commitment to achieve malaria elimination;
- **Build** civil society influence with CCMs/NMCPs/NMEPs in at least 11 countries;
- **Demonstrate** the capacity and impact of civil society in at least 5 countries;
- **Deepen** CS4ME’s advocacy presence and member capacity;
- **Advocate** for investing in Civil Society for malaria elimination;
- **Strengthen** the efficiency and effectiveness of CS4ME’s governance.

Key achievements in 2023

2023 was a year full of capacity strengthening for CS4ME members with:

- The number of CS4ME members has risen from 709 in 2022 to 774 in 2023, in 48 countries, mainly in Africa and South Asia;
- The production of eight (08) tools to enhance knowledge of civil society actors in Global Fund mechanism, especially to improve their participation in GC7 process, also in human rights & gender and community engagement in malaria;
- The Malaria Community led monitoring funded in Global fund GC7 concept notes in more than ten (10) countries;
- The organisation of seven (07) webinars to increased knowledge of CSOs in malaria
and to better equip CSOs to contribute to advocacy and programs implementation in their countries;

- The increased engagement and leadership of CSOs in the four (04) CS4ME working groups: CCM working group, advocacy & communication working group, Technical group, Capacity building working group. The aim of these working groups is to ensure that the responsibilities are divided across CS4ME’s members, and to bring different voices and perspectives to designing, planning, implementing, reviewing, and improving CS4ME’s work;

- Increasing the space of civil society representatives as CS4ME members in global decision making bodies like the RBM Board, Global Fund Board, PAMCA board to raise community’s needs;

- Participation of CS4ME members in NMCP strategy meetings at regional level like the RBM annual sub-regional meetings.

As a result, the activities carried out in 2023 led to a number of major achievements, which are set out in the rest of this report under the main objectives of the CS4ME 2021 - 2025 strategic plan.

2. Strengthening the efficiency and effectiveness of CS4ME’s governance

Strengthening the effectiveness and efficiency of CS4ME’s governance was achieved through the demonstration of accountability and transparency of CS4ME both to its members, as well as to external stakeholders. It is specifically about:

- The annual meeting of members to present the results of previous year and suggestions for the current year so that CS4ME activities meet the needs of members;

- The meetings of the steering committee for the strategic, operational and financial follow-up of CS4ME activities;

- The meeting of the Friends of CS4ME high level group;

- The engagement of CS4ME members in the different working groups that support the CS4ME Secretariat in the implementation of the network's activities.

2.1. Annual meeting for members

Each year, the Secretariat in collaboration with the CS4ME steering committee use to organize the annual meeting of CS4ME members. The main objective of this meeting is to inform members about the different CS4ME activities in order to better engage and involve them in the platform’s activities. This year, the CS4ME annual meeting was held on February 1st 2023. It was the occasion for the CS4ME Secretariat to present the result of the Activities Evaluation made at the end of 2022 and present the CS4ME workplan 2023. It was also an occasion to discuss about the CS4ME advocacy priorities for 2023. One of the resolutions taken is to step up advocacy on behalf of the populations most vulnerable to malaria, and to connect more closely with local and community leaders to accelerate the mobilization of domestic resources allocated to health, especially for malaria. During this meeting, the Secretariat also briefly presented the different CS4ME working groups and encouraged members to sign up.
2.2. CS4ME Steering committee

Since its creation, CS4ME has been supported by a dedicated and highly-skilled group of volunteers - the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee, as CS4ME’s key decision-making body, is critical to overseeing and advising on the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the CS4ME strategic plan.

The CS4ME steering committee held its quarterly meetings in March, May, September and December 2023. As usual, during their formal meetings and even outside their meetings, the members of the steering committee have conducted program and financial reviews of CS4ME activities, reviewing...
Ensuring that the needs of vulnerable populations are included in malaria programs and validating an array of tools to strengthen the CS4ME platform, as well as providing strategic guidance for CS4ME specific matters. They particularly insisted on improving members’ commitment to the working groups, their involvement in the various capacity-building sessions and the participation of civil society in the process of developing the Global Fund’s malaria concept notes. With their guidance, CS4ME’s collaboration with other regional networks in Africa and Asia will be stepped up in 2024, as will activities aimed at Asian CSOs.

2.3. Friends of CS4ME high level group

On Friday, July 14, 2023, the high-level Friends of CS4ME held their meeting. Indeed, this is a group of representatives of the various international organizations involved in the fight against malaria, who act as an advisory body and a group of champions to: provide financial support to enable CS4ME to fulfil its mission; provide CS4ME with external advice and guidance; 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: capacity strengthening, tools developed for civil society and how CS4ME advocated during World Malaria Day 2023. In the meantime, 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
Ensuring that the needs of vulnerable populations are included in malaria programs

2.4. CS4ME members engagement in strategic working groups

CS4ME working groups bring together diverse members of the platform, from different countries and backgrounds, to contribute their time, energy, knowledge, experience, and networks to helping CS4ME make progress against its Strategic Plan. As a reminder, the CS4ME working groups are part of the CS4ME platform’s organisational chart, comprising a chair, a co-chair and CS4ME members for each group. This year, in addition to the Advocacy and Communication and CCM working groups, CS4ME has launched the Capacity Building Working Group and the CS4ME Technical Group. These working groups are of a voluntary nature, they offer members the possibility to acquire new knowledge, skills, and opportunity to express their leadership.

2.4.1. CS4ME members engagement in strategic working groups

This working group has the responsibility to oversee and guide CS4ME’s global advocacy strategy efforts. This year, the group worked in collaboration with the CS4ME secretariat to develop the CS4ME advocacy and communication plan for World Malaria Day 2024. Specifically, they contribute to the development of key messages, the CS4ME statement and advocacy videos for CS4ME members.

2.4.2. CS4ME CCM working group

The purpose of this working group is to ensure that all civil society representatives who are members on CCMs are well prepared and well supported to play their role effectively. This year, this working group reflected on how to address the challenges faced by civil society in CCMs. To this end, in collaboration with the CS4ME secretariat, the working group organized a webinar on the subject to gather CS4ME members’ opinions on this issue. Among the problems identified were the non-effectiveness of the transfer of skills
Ensuring that the needs of vulnerable populations are included in malaria programs to civil society for the implementation of Global Fund grants, the lack of resources for Malaria civil society to effectively participate in the Global Fund processes. Following this webinar, the group held a meeting in June, at the end of which it was decided to draft a letter of advocacy in favor of the transfer of skills to civil society for the implementation of Global Fund grants, addressed to the CCMs of the various countries.

2.4.3. CS4ME capacity building working group

The purpose of this working group is to oversee capacity-building efforts and ensure that they reflect CS4ME network in terms of high quality and best practices are well adapted to the different contexts and are effectively disseminated among CS4ME members.

This working group was officially launched in September 2023. Following this, the said working group members held a meeting in October 2023 in collaboration with the CS4ME Secretariat. The aim of this meeting was for the Secretariat to collect feedback
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At the end of 2023, the work carried out by the members of this working group focused primarily on their desire to develop an action plan for 2024. To this end, the members of the working group were consulted to define the major actions to be implemented in 2024. The same exercise was carried out in the 3 other working groups under the lead of the chairs and co-chairs of these groups.

### 2.4.4. CS4ME technical group

This group was established under the initiative of Mr Tumaineil Mangi, Executive Director, Health for Children Organization member of the steering committee. It has as principal mission to advise and assist the CS4ME Secretariat on all technical aspects of malaria control. This working group was officially launched in September 2023. The main activity of the group members was to participate in shaping the development of the malaria vaccine research agenda. Indeed, On Thursday 21 September 2023, KHRC and PATH, in collaboration with World Health Organisation (WHO) and GAVI, hosted a webinar with Civil Society Organizations (CSO) to gather input to shape the development of the malaria vaccine research agenda. The aim of the webinar was 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 Kintampo Health Research Center (KHRC) and PATH’s Malaria Vaccine Initiative (PATH) presented the background to the research agenda, including the purpose and objectives of the agenda. 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. Topics discussed included: 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.
Ensuring that the needs of vulnerable populations are included in malaria programs

On January 18th 2023, the CS4ME Community Led-Monitoring Guide for key malaria control programs was officially launched during a webinar with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from multiple African countries. This guide was developed by ISA, with the purpose of building the capacity of CSOs in Community Led-Monitoring (CLM) to improve their contribution to quality monitoring of malaria control interventions in communities. Indeed, the inclusion of a community-led monitoring (CLM) approach particularly to malaria funded programs in Global Fund grants to complement national Malaria monitoring systems is essential to identify barriers to improve service delivery, and respond to community preferences regarding access, affordability, quality, and acceptability of services. During this webinar, civil society representative coming from Ghana, Senegal, Gabon and Tanzania shared their experiences on CLM on malaria control programs in their countries.
Mr Ayo Ipinmoye, the National Coordinator of ACOMIN based in Nigeria highlight the importance of CLM to achieve malaria elimination: “Community is the bedrock of malaria transmission as they are the one receiving all the injuring due to mosquitoes’ activities. Consequently, any effort to eliminate malaria has to be situated within the community. If the community is not included in the process, we will not have a sustain impact in trying to eliminate malaria. The contribution of community is important particularly in the management of the environment and the appropriate usage of anti-malarial tools such as treated nets.”

We invite you to disseminate this guide widely to members of your respective organizations and networks.

Thanks to all those who participated on the elaboration of this tool!
Ensuring that the needs of vulnerable populations are included in malaria programs

3.2. In-country training on Malaria Community-led Monitoring for CSOs

Following the online regional training held in December 2022 and the official launch of the CS4ME CLM Malaria guide in January 2023, 6 CSOs organized in-country training sessions to coach their peers how to use the CS4ME CLM Malaria guide during the two first quarters of the year. These were ISA (Cameroon), RACOJ (DRC), ASOS (Madagascar), ESCAVI (Niger), ACOMIN (Nigeria) and CSVA (Senegal). An average of 30 participants in each country attended these trainings including civil society representatives, representatives of the Ministry of Health and technical partners. The training sessions focused on:

Quotes from some people who used this tool

"Community Led-monitoring enables community to take ownership in keeping the environment clean with regards to Malaria interventions and empowers community to keep project implementers accountable when carrying out activities.

Mr Ayo Ipinnayo
National Coordinator ACOMIN, Nigeria

"In the case of Gabon, we recommend the integration of community-led monitoring in the national Malaria Control Plan and the training of CSOs on community-led monitoring.

Marie Laure Edeng
Founding President of RACO Plus de Sida dans les Familles, Gabon

"The community Led-Monitoring has helped us to monitor and identify gaps in implementing our activities. It has also helped us to unite CSO and communities to demand and obtain quality health services in our area.

Mrs Cecilia Senok
Executive Director HPGO, Ghana

The community monitoring guide is an important tool for the evaluation and the strategic monitoring of malaria control activities. I call on CSOs to obtain it and make good use of it.

Pasteur Claude Kipenonso
President of DADJU
Ensuring that the needs of vulnerable populations are included in malaria programs

- Familiarize participants with the key concepts of CLM in malaria programs;
- Equip participants to put into practice the principles set out in the CS4ME CLM Malaria guide;
- Lead discussions on the challenges and opportunities of integrating CLM into malaria programs;
- Describe and list the roles and responsibilities of CSOs in implementing CLM.

3.3. Training on resource mobilization for civil society

The CS4ME Secretariat has organized a two-day (January 26-27, 2023) online training workshop on resource mobilization to complement the one held in November 2022 on project management. This training has been prepared to develop/strengthen CSOs resource mobilization capacity and ultimately increase their resources. They learnt how to:

- Understand different types of funding available and how they can adapt this information to their country context;
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Understand the minimum requirements to submit a proposal and assess their own organization’s readiness;

Deliver an “elevator pitch” of their project idea;

Develop a funding proposal, workplan, budget and project report.

On average 90 civil society representatives from 18 countries (Cameroon, Switzerland, Benin, Niger, Burkina Faso, Tanzania, Guinea, Congo, United States, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Kenya, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, France, Gabon, Zimbabwe, Guinea-Bissau) took part in this training.

One of the highlights was the debriefing of the elevator pitch exercise. During this session, participants shared what they understand by elevator pitch for a given organization and share examples for their organization. It was very informative for the participants who learned how to convince a potential funder in a few minutes.

To learn more about this training, see the recording day1 day2

Family picture: Training on resource mobilization for civil society

### 3.4. Civil Society malaria coffee talk

This is a quarterly online meeting during which civil society representatives share their experience on specific topics, with the aim of contributing to the effectiveness and efficiency of civil society action in malaria programs. The aim is to encourage learning and
sharing between CS4ME members from different countries, i.e. to learn on 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 year’s 4 quarterly sessions focused on the best practices of Malaria civil society in Global Fund grant cycle process (GC7) and Civil Society engagement in mobilizing domestic health resources. More than 70 CSOs representatives attended these sessions from many countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Congo Brazzaville, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania and Zimbabwe).

It was noted that the main challenges faced by civil society are the lack of financial resources, information and technical capacities and the difficulties of access to some strategic meetings for decision making. Also the political context which influence civil society work’s; its raises the question of the sustainability of health funding, because if the political situation is unstable, people’s health is threatened, especially that of the poorest and most vulnerable, such as children and women.

Among the key recommendations, it was mentioned that:

- The civil society must be united and speak with one voice during all its interventions in the process of elaborating funding requests, especially in GC7 processes through an establishment of a coordinating mechanism for civil society to ensure full participation.
- Civil society needs to find more ways of strengthening its capacities, especially those directly involved in the GC7 process: for example on climate change impact on malaria like one participant suggested

These learning sessions enabled members to inspire and motivate each other to become more effective in the fight against malaria.
3.5. Enhancing Civil Society with specific tools related on malaria

2023 marked the year for the development of malaria country concept notes for GC7 Global Fund grants. Thus, CS4ME’s mission was to enhance the capacities of its members through the development and dissemination of tools to ensure quality malaria civil society participation in the development of GC7 Global Fund malaria Country Concept Notes.

Below is the list of tools developed for civil society:

- Ensuring meaningful contribution of Malaria civil society in global Fund malaria concept notes- GC7.
- How to conduct costing of community-based activities proposed by civil society in the global Fund’s GC7 malaria country concept notes.
- Strengthening the impact of global fund malaria grants through the integration of gender and human rights.
- How to prioritize malaria interventions eligible for Global fund GC7 country concept notes.
- The Global Fund’s new GC7 funding round: what civil society need to know to better participate in the malaria country concept note development process.
- Grant Making in the Global Funds GC7 process.
- Community at the center of interventions of the global Funds: A focus on the global Funds new strategy 2023 – 2028.
- Good practice guide on engaging civil society on malaria in the malaria concept note process for the Global Fund GC7 funding cycle.
3.6. CS4ME training webinars for the effective participation of civil society in Global Fund grant cycle 7 process

The development of each of the above-mentioned tools led to the organization of a series of training sessions on the use of each tool. Thus, throughout the year, Secretariat CS4ME organized 07 webinar training sessions, as follows:

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<th>N°</th>
<th>Webinar</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ensuring meaningful contribution of Malaria civil society in global Fund malaria concept notes - GC7</td>
<td>Friday, 17th February</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>How to conduct costing of community-based activities proposed by civil society in the global Fund’s GC7 malaria country concept notes</td>
<td>Wednesday, 15th March</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Strengthening the impact of global fund malaria grants through the integration of gender and human rights</td>
<td>Tuesday, 11th April,</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>How to prioritize malaria interventions eligible for Global fund GC7 country concept notes</td>
<td>Tuesday, 18th April,</td>
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<td>The Global Fund’s new GC7 funding round: what civil society need to know to better particpe in the malaria country concept note development process</td>
<td>Wednesday, 26th April</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Community at the center of interventions</td>
<td>Tuesday, 04th July</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Grant making in the global fund’s GC7 process</td>
<td>Thursday, 06th July</td>
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As some participants have testified, these webinars are very useful for civil society, enabling them to improve their daily work in the fight against malaria.

**CS4ME Members’ testimonials**

**« Très belle présentation, riches en information mais surtout de renforcement des capacités car j’avoue que j’ai beaucoup appris. Je félicite CS4ME qui ne cesse d’organiser des séances d’informations et de renforcement des capacités des acteurs de lutte contre le Paludisme »**

*Marie laure edeng, Gabon*

**“Hello, this is an important forum for enlightening and updating us on such key information and insights...”**

*Tumaini Mbibo, Tanzania*
3.7. The CS4ME annual forum 2023

Since 2021, ISA, the CS4ME Secretariat, organizes once a year of a global forum, to create a platform for exchange which, permit CSOs, experts and many partners to look at the situation of the fight against malaria throughout the world, to exchange on the progress made, the successful experiences in different countries, the good practices that can be adopted by civil society as well as by any other actor involved in the fight against malaria. This year, the annual CS4ME forum will take place on Monday, April 24th, 2023, on the theme: “Time to deliver Zero Malaria: Innovate, Invest, Implement.”

The objective was to gather global civil society and key partners in the fight against malaria to discuss the progress, issues and challenges in the fight against malaria worldwide, in particular the role that civil society has in the malaria elimination process.

During this global event, several speakers/panelists from different backgrounds will intervene: World Health Organization, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, RBM Partnership to End Malaria, Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA), “L’Initiative”, The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Vestergaard, PAMCA, “Institut de Recherche en Sciences de la Santé (IRSS)”, Georgetown University, Centre of Research in Infectious Diseases, Fund Regional Artemisinin Initiative and many Civil Society Organizations like Hope for Future Generation, CSVA, InPact, FLAME, ESCAVI, SANRU, ACOMIN, COLTMR CI, RACOJ, POALP active at the national and regional level. About 330 participants from 46 countries coming from several organizations (such as International Organizations, Government, National Malaria Control Programs (NMCPs), Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs), Media, Parliamentarians and CSOs) attended this event.

It was an opportunity for civil society to be informed of the latest innovations in the fight against malaria with presentations on the IPTn+ for newborns, the gene drive, monoclonal antibodies, and the new NET. The interventions of international malaria control organizations showed that civil society is more and more involved in the high decision-making spheres to achieve malaria elimination.

It was also an occasion to discuss about the issues and challenges that affect the implementation of malaria programs such as seasonal chemoprevention, Community-Led Monitoring, artemisinin resistance and how to improve the coverage of Community Health Workers. Also, the interventions of civil society representatives allowed for the sharing of experiences in terms of advocacy for the mobilization of domestic resources and their involvement in the GC7 process.
Some quotes of Keynote speakers

**CS4ME ANNUAL FORUM 2023**

**Peter Sands**
Executive Director, The Global Fund

“We can mitigate the impact of malaria by raising more funds to scale up malaria innovations and support the vital work of Community Health Workers.”

**Dr Corine Karema**
Interim CEO of RBM Partnership to end malaria

“Civil society is at the heart of an effective and equitable response to the fight against malaria as it is best placed to mobilise and engage affected communities that have great insight and experiential knowledge to end malaria at the grass root level.”

**CS4ME ANNUAL FORUM 2023**

**Dr Jane Deuve**
L’Initiative, Expertise France

“There is a need to adapt and intensify seasonal chemoprevention in order to meet the diverse challenges of the countries most heavily affected by malaria, for instance via also targeting children from 5 to 9 years old.”

**Patrick Sieyes**
Vestergaard

“With the PermaNet dual pre-qualified by the WHO, Countries can now deploy a new generation of bednets that can kill up to 70% of mosquitoes as it has the ability to kill increasingly resistant malaria mosquitoes.”

**CS4ME ANNUAL FORUM 2023**

**Dr Phone Shein**
Asa Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA)

“Asa Pacific made substantial progress over the past decade against malaria, however this progress has slowed in recent years — especially since 2021. We encourage countries to target their efforts and support additional investments to sustain effective prevention, treatment, and surveillance measures while strengthening cross-border collaborations to end malaria.”

**Dr Peter Olumese**
Global Malaria Program, World Health Organization

“Success in tackling diseases such as malaria requires a solid primary health care system and essential public health programs that support resilient community response able to overcome adversities.”
4. Building civil society influence with National Malaria Control Program

4.1. Regional level: Civil society participation in NMCP regional meetings

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria, through its Country and Regional Support Partners Committee (CRSPC) and in collaboration with its partners, organized two annual sub-regional meetings in person with national malaria control programs and partners. These meetings were held respectively from October 3 to 6 in Uganda for East and Southern African countries, and from October 20 to 23 in Cote d’Ivoire for West and Central African countries.

CS4ME was represented at these 2 meetings respectively by the Founder & Executive Director of the CSO “Mothers Initiatives Africa” based in Uganda and the Monitoring & Evaluation Officer of the CSO “Plateforme des Réseaux et Faitières de lutte contre le Sida et les autres pandémies” based in Cote d’Ivoire. More than 20 participants from many countries attended each of these meetings.

The aim of these annual meetings was to involve national malaria control programs and partners, who will thus have the opportunity to take stock of the implementation of their national plans, identify key bottlenecks, share best practices and lessons learned, keep abreast of current malaria policy orientations and new developments, and identify implementation support needed in 2024.

Exchanges and discussions focused on the key role of each partner in the fight against malaria, and the importance of each stakeholder taking ownership of the fight against malaria. Several recommendations were made, particularly with regard to civil society. Civil society was asked to reinvigorate/strengthen the coordination of organizations to give greater visibility to civil society’s contribution to the fight against malaria. In concrete terms, civil society will be involved in:

- Promote theory informed, evidence based, programming focused on behavioral change in all countries where we operate,
- Establish forums for exchange malaria elimination best practices,
- Be voices to call for political, social and financial resources to advocacy as a core component of malaria control that cuts across all technical areas.
- Promote and exhibit teamwork at all levels and by all parties.
The implementation of malaria control programs has highlighted the level of achievement of action plans, the gaps between needs and available resources, and the challenges. It is by prioritizing, committing internal resources and sharing best practices that countries will be able to eradicate malaria in Africa.

### 4.2. Task force NMCP-CS4ME

The NMCP - Civil Society CS4ME Task Force is a framework for consultation between the National Malaria Control Program (PNLP) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) active in the fight against malaria and members of the Global Civil Society for Malaria Elimination (CS4ME). This is a mechanism for civil society to regularly engage with the NMCP afin exchange information and views as partners, and contribute to the development of national strategies and decisions to improve the fight against malaria at country level. He then presented the evolution of this process in Cameroon and the DRC.

#### 4.2.1. In Democratic Republic of the Congo

During the year 2023, the members of the NMCP-CS4ME DRC task force met twice, in July and December. Coordinated by the Réseau des associations congolaises des jeunes (RACOJ), in partnership with Impact Santé Afrique and with technical support from the National Malaria Control Program, the different stakeholders met to explore ways and mechanisms of strengthening collaboration between malaria civil society and the NMCP.

Many points/subject/themes were discussed during these meetings. Among these are the following:

- Reflection on the contribution of CSOs in the GC7 Global Fund application process;
- Restitution of the DRC’s participation in the first international conference on CLM malaria;
- Identify the capacity-building needs of CSOs involved in the fight against malaria;
- Reflect on how to improve civil society advocacy in the fight against malaria, following the example of the Meet the Target 2 campaign.
These meetings were made of discussion that enabled civil society to reflect with the NMCP on how to make a better contribution to the fight against malaria, for example: continuing to raise public awareness of the use of mosquito nets and becoming more involved in community monitoring.

According to an official of the NMCP, the task force is certainly a platform that “enables all stakeholders in the fight against malaria to be informed of the actions that are being carried out in the field, the difficulties encountered and to formulate orientations in order to achieve the elimination of malaria by 2030 in the DRC”.

4.2.2. In Cameroon

As last year, the task force NMCP - CS4ME Cameroon enabled civil society to exchange information and views as partners with the NMCP, and to contribute to the development of national strategies and decisions to improve malaria control at country level. This year, during the 4 quarterly meetings held, particular emphasis focused on:

- Sharing of experience by CSOs of the various actions they undertake;
- Civil society’s contribution to the fight against malaria, particularly on World Malaria Day;
- Involvement of civil society in anti-malaria interventions, such as the chemoprevention campaign;
- Civil society’s contribution to the Global Fund’s malaria concept note process GC7;
- Reflections on setting up a community monitoring system for the fight against malaria.

These meetings were also marked by the presence of other country technical partners such as Plan International, Breakthrough Action, Reach Out and others, who shared their experience whenever called upon.
Civil Society Advocacy for communities at the national, regional and global level

Bring its voice to advocacy efforts and engage CSOs in campaigns for malaria elimination and community engagement is essential for CS4ME. This year CS4ME deepened advocacy presence globally and also nationally in some countries.

5.1. Civil society integration in RBM Partnership to End Malaria Board

Through CS4ME’s advocacy and the support of many consultants, RBM Partnership to End Malaria has decided to open two spaces for civil society organizations on its Board, its highest level of decision-making for this global partnership for malaria. Due to transitional arrangements, one of those spaces has already been filled. Thus, CS4ME launched a call for application for a suitable civil society organization leader to take up the three available Board Member seats, who will be able to contribute meaningfully to the board and ensure the voices of underrepresented communities are heard. After a review of the various applications by the selection committee, 3 profiles were selected.

Mr Wato Joseph, Cameroon (Member)

Mrs Cecilia Lodonu-Senoo, Executive Director, Hope for Future Generation, Ghana (Alternate member)

Mr Ayodele Olu Ipinmoye, National Coordinator - Civil society in Malaria control, Immunization and Nutrition (ACOMIN), Nigeria (Alternate member)
Following their selection, they participated in the RBM board meeting held in December 2023 online and in person. The main challenges observed at the end of the Board meeting were: inflation in several sectors, climate change, access to new tools, and security and humanitarian crises.

On December 18, 2023, they took part in a restitution meeting organized by the CS4ME Secretariat with CS4ME members. It was an opportunity for these civil society representatives on the RBM Board to advise their peers not to neglect these challenges in their daily actions. At the same time, they encouraged CSOs to take part in drawing up the next RBM action plan, which will take better account of civil society’s requests and needs, starting in 2024.

5.2. CS4ME raising awareness during World Malaria Day 2023

The fight against malaria faces many challenges: the global funding gap is large and growing, increasing from US$ 2.6 billion in 2019 to US$ 3.5 billion in 2020 and US$ 3.8 billion in 2021. States are struggling to mobilize resources specifically from national budgets. Community engagement and mobilization remain very weak and underfunded, even though community engagement and ownership are key to malaria elimination. However, opportunities exist to tip the balance! With the right investments, research and development, community engagement and political will, it is possible to reverse the trends and accelerate progress towards malaria elimination.

Therefore, malaria civil society through the CS4ME World Malaria Day Statement 2023, recommends to countries integrate in their National Malaria Control Strategic Plans and concept notes the Global Fund Grant Cycle (GC7) concept notes that these documents:

- The institutionalization, training and motivation of Community Health Workers and Community Relays in order to improve their performance;
- Control strategies adapted to each context so that they can take into account the specific realities and needs of the communities by using data from the stratification of malaria interventions.

In addition, CS4ME members recommend that policymakers and leaders ensure that the priority needs of vulnerable populations are taken into account in malaria control policies, strategies and programmes.
Ensuring that the needs of vulnerable populations are included in malaria programs

CS4ME members widely broadcasted key messages on their social networking pages and other communication channels. They produced advocacy videos to raise awareness among national and global leaders about the challenges persisting in the fight against malaria, the importance of investing in community action and filling gaps, and the importance of adopting innovative practices in the implementation of malaria programs.
5.3. Francophone Regional Meeting: CS4ME Unites Malaria Voices in Cotonou for the fight against malaria

In March 2023, CSOs representatives from 8 countries (Benin, Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Niger, DRC, Senegal) were invited to a CS4ME Regional Meeting of francophone civil society actors involved in the development of Global Fund GC7 malaria concept notes in 2023 organized by the CS4ME Secretariat. This meeting was organized to improve the coordination of CSO actions, and the quality of malaria civil society’s contribution to the development of Global Fund GC7 malaria country concept notes in 2023. The meeting, hosted by ISA, brought together 28 participants from 20 organizations across Benin. Participants included the focal points of the CSO country coordinators of the CS4ME GC7 project, CCM members and influential members of the national Global Fund GC7 malaria concept note drafting teams.

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. [https://cs4me.org/news/blog/statement-of-african-malaria-civil-society-recommendations-for-global-fund-gc7-malaria-country-concept-notes/](https://cs4me.org/news/blog/statement-of-african-malaria-civil-society-recommendations-for-global-fund-gc7-malaria-country-concept-notes/)
5.4. Concrete advocacy actions to take account of priorities needs of vulnerable populations to Malaria

2023 marks the last year for the implementation of the CS4ME Global Fund CRG project. In the 3 countries (Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria), where the project has been implemented, CS4ME members intend to carry out a strong advocacy towards decision makers and other actors in the fight against malaria, in order to address the main problems encountered by communities in accessing quality malaria services in these 3 countries, with particular emphasis on the most vulnerable populations, women and children. CSOs continued to engage with civil society representatives on the CCMs of their respective countries, to defend the interests of communities for a greater consideration of the specific needs of vulnerable populations to malaria, greater mobilization of national resources for the fight against malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, and the implementation and monitoring of community activities in the fight against malaria. Activities were carried out by CS4ME members to influence decision-making bodies, mainly during the development of the malaria country concept notes and the Grant Making process within the framework of GC7 process in the countries where the malaria CSOs received a support from the CS4ME secretariat.

The actions carried out made it possible to obtain notable results such as:

- The selection of a local organization in Niger as a Super Community Sub-Recipient for the implementation of community malaria control activities under the GC7 grant;

- The increased number of CSME members chosen as NMCP community partners in the implementation of malaria control activities. This is the case of ASOS, a CSME member based in Madagascar;

- The selection of a local organization in Niger as a Super Community Sub-Recipient for the implementation of community malaria control activities under the GC7 grant;
CS4ME Annual report: Ensuring that the needs of vulnerable populations are included in malaria programs

- The validation of the malaria CLM implemented in the 2024 - 2026 grant by civil society actors in several African countries as is the case for ACOMIN in Nigeria;
- The adoption of the LLIN distribution strategy to children in schools, a great achievement of malaria civil society in Cameroon.

6. Civil Society engagement in the development of the Global Fund GC7 Malaria concept note process at the country level

The Global Fund recommends the effective involvement of civil society in all stages of the malaria concept note development process. The launch in 2023 of the Global Fund’s Grant Cycle 7 (GC7) by the development of Malaria country concept note has given the opportunity to Civil Society to play a more key role than ever in strengthening the impact of the malaria representatives in the different processes conducted in the country level. With the support of partners, CS4ME focused in 9 countries for improving the quality of the contribution and participation of civil society in the fight against malaria in the preparation and development of the Global Fund’s country concept notes - GC7. These counties were Benin, Cameroon, Congo (Brazzaville), Democratic Republic of Congo, “Cote d’Ivoire”, Madagascar, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.

Thus, during 2023, the CSOs involved in the process of developing the concept notes (presented in the annexes to this report) essentially carried out the following activities:
- Conduct community and civil society consultations to identify priority needs of malaria-affected communities;
- Participate in the country dialogue for the development of the GC7 malaria concept notes;
- Develop priority needs into eligible activities for the country concept note;
- Advocate for the inclusion of priority needs of malaria-vulnerable populations in Global Fund GC7 country concept notes;
- Disseminate tools developed by CS4ME in-country to CSOs, CCM, NMCP and other actors involved in the development of the GC7 malaria concept note.

Community consultations with vulnerable populations in DRC

Civil society consultation online in Nigeria
In the end, the experiences drawn from the rich contribution of malaria civil society to the Global Fund’s GC7 process were highlighted in a document sharing the best practices to be adopted in this type of process. Some of these best practices are presented below:

- Master the final agenda for developing the concept note: know all the stages and precise dates of the various consultation meetings for developing the concept note;
- Select qualified representatives to participate actively and contribute, to ensure the credibility of civil society vis-à-vis the other partners involved in the process;
- Participate in all stages (programmatic review, drafting of the first version of the concept note, finalization and validation);
- Ensure that communities’ priority activities are taken into account in the concept note;
- Consult with beneficiary communities (especially vulnerable populations) to gather information on their requests and suggestions for improving the fight against malaria, so that interventions meet their needs, even if this requires their own funds;
- Strengthen post-submission monitoring of funding requests (FR) and engage in ongoing exchanges with programs and the CCM to ensure that the priorities set out in the FR are ultimately validated: for example, set up an ongoing monitoring and accountability mechanism;
- Ensure synergy of action between the various CSOs involved in the funding application process, to promote the coherence and relevance of civil society proposals: for example, create a single, formal and legal framework for bringing together CSOs working in the field of malaria, or organize a meeting with civil society CSOs (a pre-dialogue to prepare for the national dialogue) to speak with one voice;
- Ensure that the Civil Society Organizations participating in the process have sufficiently strengthened capacities to be up to the challenge of the exchanges during the consultation meetings (this requires the implementation of a capacity-building program within the Organization before the start of the process).

This best practice sharing document and all the other tools developed over the course of 2023 (in English and French) can be read and downloaded free of charge by clicking on the following link: https://cs4me.org/webinars-tools/cs4me-guides-tools/

A key issue that recurs in all countries is the need for civil society to be united and speak with one voice in order to best advocate on behalf of communities.
Conclusion

One of the challenges in 2023 for civil society was to participate effectively and efficiently in malaria concept notes to ensure that the needs of communities, especially the most vulnerable, are taken into account in the Global Fund grant cycle 7. This was the case in some countries (Niger, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Nigeria, Benin, Congo Brazzaville, Madagascar and Democratic Republic of Congo) which, with CS4ME’s support, raised the voice of civil society. Capacity building and experience sharing remain a key pillar of the platform, as it enables different members to help each other and interconnect to achieve better results. CS4ME members’ access to the RBM Board is a sign that the voice of civil society is increasingly being brought to decision-making heights.

The main focus for 2024 will be on monitoring the implementation of the Global Fund Grant cycle 7, advocating the needs of vulnerable populations and improving the involvement of members in CS4ME actions through the various working groups, and deploying civil society to address major challenges such as climate change and the implementation of the malaria vaccine.
Ensuring that the needs of vulnerable populations are included in malaria programs

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List of CSOs/CBOs involved in the GC7 process

Country: Benin – Lead Organization: ASSAP-TB
ICONE 360°; CEBAC –STP; VIA ME; COBCUS ; Time is up for Africa; TONAGNON; CEDIF; CADID; SIANSON; Afric’mutualité; DEDRAS; SUD NORD ACTION; YAKS; ESB; IFA; GRAFED; GABF; BUPDOS; ESULV; MJCD; JEVEV; ADESCK; PJUD; CREDEL; RACINES; HSF.

Country: Cameroon – Lead Organization: ISA
Association des Jeunes d’Essos et Environs de Yaoundé (AJESEEEY) ; RELESS – NSONGON ; Organisation des Femmes pour l’Islam sans Frontière (OFIF) ; POWER ; RESIPAT ; APDSP ; KidsAid Cameroon / CSCC-Santé ; Malaria Youth Corps Cameroon ; YOU’ACTH ; Positive Generation (PG) ; Reach Out Cameroon ; Fondation MOJE ; CADELCO ; AJERED MT ; Plateforme Education pour la Santé ; AFEDEC ; ASOPV.

Country: Congo – Lead Organization : POALP
Génération Sans Risque (GSR) ; Association Congolaise pour la santé publique et communautaire (ACSPC) ; Réseau National des Associations des Populations Autochtones au Congo (RENAPAC) ; Organisation Congo Prévention Secours (OCPS) ; Terre Sans Frontières (TSF) ; Association Yamini Santé (AYES) ; Association Congolaise de Recherche et de lutte Contre le Paludisme (ACRLP) ; Organisation de la Jeunesse pour l’éducation socio Culturelle (OJESC) ; Association EMARD Jeunesse Infrastructure (AEJI) ; Association pour le Développement et Assistance des Couches Vulnérables en Afrique (ADACVA) ; Conscience active ; Coordination des Confessions Religieuse Congolaises pour la Santé et le Développement (COREC - SADE) ; Hygiène Assainissement et Développement d’Afrique (HADA) ; Association Action Santé Environnement et Développement Communautaire (ASEDECO).
Ensuring that the needs of vulnerable populations are included in malaria programs

Country: **Ivory Coast** – Lead Organization: **LA PLATEFORME**
ROLPCI; ARSIP; APROSAM; ASAPSU; AIDD.

Country: **Madagascar** – Lead Organization: **ASOS**
ASOS Manakara; EKAR Santé; Ordre National des Médecins (ONM); ACDEM Fianarantsoa; SAF FJKM; SALFA; Association FANOITRA; Rindra Consulting; Association CAPRICORNUS; Action des Jeunes pour le Développement de l’Humanité et de la Nature (AJDHM); Vangaindrano; Plateforme des Fédérations des Personnes Handicapées de Madagascar (PFPHM); AJPP Majunga; ODDIT Toamasina; AINGA Madagascar; Ordre National Sage-Femme de Madagascar (ONSFM); SPM – Ihosy; Association AJEMA – Maevatanana; AFRYAn; Coalition Malagasy pour le Renforcement Systèmes Santé (COMARESS); ONG MIARINTSOA; Union SCOUT Madagascar; Sampan’Asa Fampandrosoana Ifotony (SAHI); Ny TANINTSIKA – Fianarantsoa; Association IZARA Antsirabe; PENSER Madagascar.

Country: **Niger** – Lead Organization: **ESCAVI**
Plateforme DES-ICI Niger; ANSP; SONGES; Association FARAHAN; AFRYan-Niger; ONEN; ADESEN-NAFA; GARKUA; ROJALNU-ODD-Niger; Association des jeunes médecins du Niger; Grade Africa.

Country: **Nigeria** – Lead Organization: **ACOMIN**
ACOMIN National Leadership (National Executive Council); ACOMIN State Leadership; Network of Religious leaders; ATM Network leaders.

Country: **Democratic Republic of Congo** – Lead Organization: **RACOJ**
CNOS; JCVS; GRADIN; CCF; GAPEC; UCOP+; Femmes +; CNRSC; ROLP; AFI santé; AJP

Country: **Senegal** – Lead Organization: **CSVA**
SANTE SERVICE DEVELOPPEMENT; EMAD; PANAFRICARE; ECOSS; RN/ASLUT; Réseau Communautaire; RNP+; RESSIP/CONGAD; AFAO; CSID/Jacques chirac; RNSD; ASPS; RESOPOPDEV; RENAPOC; SWAA; FAFS; HACI; ONG Jamra; CSC; ACDEV; AWA; Catholic Relief Service (CRS); AJDPASTEF; Handicap International; ANREMS; CICODEV; OLPL; FONSELUD; RADOVIS; ENDA Santé; RNISE; HELP TB; TOIT DU MONDE; Réseau des OCB de Kolda; ONG 3D; AFEMS; ECO PN; Deggo; Soppeku; WAGGIN/ASPAT; FAHS.