

CS4ME NEWSLETTER

CS4ME

CIVIL SOCIETY FOR MALARIA ELIMINATION

HIGHLIGHTS

JULY - DECEMBER 2024

ABOUT CS4ME

CS4ME is a global network of civil society organisations (CSOs) and communities contributing to malaria elimination, with nearly 900 members in 48 countries. Since its establishment in 2019, the Civil Society For Malaria Elimination (CS4ME) network has been working to strengthen and unite civil society so that it can become a key agent of change towards malaria elimination.

From July to December 2024, as usual, CS4ME continued to work for capacity building and experience sharing among CSOs members of the network. Because gender and human rights issues have become an important part of health programmes in general and malaria control in particular, **one of the highlights of this semester was the organisation of a series of webinars on the theme:** how to integrate gender into community-based malaria control activities? These online trainings, led by internationally renowned experts, garnered significant engagement. Many CSOs who are members of CS4ME actively participated, highlighting the relevance of these issues in field interventions.

Through these initiatives, CS4ME continues to support its members in implementing inclusive and effective strategies to address global health challenges.

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SPOTLIGHT

Gwendoline SHANG, Champion in the fight against malaria in Cameroon



Mrs. Ndiomo Gwendoline Shang, born 46 years ago, originated from Kumbo in the North-West Region of Cameroon. She is a passionate and dynamic woman who has always been drawn to community development activities. After several trainings in Community Health and Counselling, she became a Coach and Trainer of Community Health Workers (CHWs). In 2012, she volunteered to fight malaria and promote vaccination at the Shemka Foundation.

Since 2016, she has been the Coordinator of the interventions under community directives project

focused on malaria, sponsored by the Global Fund and executed successively by the Malaria Consortium – Cameroon Coalition Against Malaria (MCCAM) and Plan International Cameroon in two health districts in the suburbs of Yaoundé where she works with CHWs.

Since December 2022, she has also been the supervisor of Project Plus with Population Service International (PSI), a pilot programme that aims to use chemoprevention to reduce malaria morbidity and mortality in children under two years of age.

As the Director of Programmes at the Shemka Foundation and a key figure in multiple coalitions dedicated to advancing community health, she is deeply committed to social causes. She is also a founding member of the Foyer of Hope and Learning for Mothers and the Needy, an initiative that supports vulnerable populations. Her passions include charity work and cooking, which she sees as powerful ways to bring people together and make a difference.

Good to know



The Shemka Foundation is a Non-Governmental Organisation created in 2001 and working mainly in the social sector.

Since 2012, the foundation has been supporting the State and its various partners in various activities in the humanitarian fields on the one hand, and in the community field on the other hand through community development and capacity building in collaboration with local associations. It is in this context that the Foundation signed a contract with the Global Fund through Plan International Cameroon as part of Grant Cycle 7 (GC7) on Community-led Interventions implemented by Community Health Workers (CHWs). The activities planned by the GC7 started in early 2024 with refresher sessions and trainings for the various actors to strengthen and increase their capacities.

NETWORK NEWS

MALAWI

52nd Session of the Global Fund Board in Lilongwe



From 19 - 22 November, 2024, the Board of Directors of the **Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria** convened its 52nd meeting in Lilongwe, Malawi. The country was selected as the host in recognition of its significant progress in combating these diseases over the past decades, which has contributed to a rise in

life expectancy from 44.7 years in 2000 to 62.5 years in 2021.

This strategic gathering brought together global leaders to discuss priorities and guide critical decisions in the fight against HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria. The opening ceremony, presided over by **Dr. Lazarus Chakwera**, President of Malawi, served as a powerful reminder of the global commitment to ending these pandemics.

We are proud to highlight the participation of **Joseph Wato**, an active member of **CS4ME (Civil Society for Malaria Elimination)**, who represented the rights and needs of communities affected by malaria. As a member of the Board of Directors, his presence underscores the vital role of civil society in ensuring that the Global Fund's resources and policies translate into tangible impact on the ground. Together, we remain steadfast in our commitment to a future free from pandemics.

CHAD

Inaugural General Assembly of PANEPAT



In November 2024, La Plateforme des Acteurs Non Etatiques pour la lutte contre les pandémies in Chad (PANEPAT) held its first Ordinary General Assembly. PANEPAT is a group of civil society organisations (CSOs)/associations whose aim is to promote access to health for the population in accordance with a global vision of health in Chad.

PANEPAT's focuses on the fight against pandemics, including HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria and COVID-19 as well as the promotion of the right to health, human rights and gender equality, including the fight against gender-based violence (GBV). PANEPAT is developing a local response approach to community interventions by strengthening and supporting local actors (CSOs/CBOs/CHWs) to promote community integration of health programmes and projects.

CONGO

Training workshop on the minimum package of community activities



As part of the GC7 funded by the Global Fund, the members of Yemini Santé, as associative agents, participate in the training workshop on the minimum package of community activities.

In Congo, community relays (RECO) travel miles to: visit households, raise awareness about various diseases and good health practices, identify cases, perform rapid malaria screening tests, administer treatment for simple cases and refer serious cases of diseases to health centres as well as pregnant women for prenatal follow-up.

As a reminder, the said workshop, which was held from in July 2024, was organized by the Dolisie Health District with the technical support of Catholics Relief Services (CRS).



CAMEROON

3rd and 4th Quarterly Meeting of the NM-CP-CS4ME Task Force



In October and November 2024, the Third and Fourth Quarterly meetings of the Task Force NMCP - CS4ME Cameroon were held at Yaounde - Cameroon.

These meetings aim to show the impact of community participation and engagement through the strengthening of the actions of civil society and vulnerable communities in the implementation of malaria control programmes in Cameroon.

Each meeting saw the online and face-to-face partici-

pation about thirty representatives of renowned organisations and institutions such as: the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP), the Global Fund, Expertise France, the French Embassy, Plan International Cameroon, the Cameroon Social Marketing Association, and CSOs within the Taskforce.

Of note, the exceptional presence of Expertise France and the French Embassy at the 3rd meeting, as well as that of the Global Fund during the 4th meeting, underscoring the importance and relevance of the topics discussed.

Following productive discussions, recommendations were made, the most relevant being:

- Advocate with the NMCP to ensure the effective and regular payment of motivation to CHWs implementing the Interventions under Community Directives;
- Establish community monitoring provided by civil society to monitor the availability of supplies at the level of the CHWs;
- Integrate gender into the different interventions that CSOs bring to the community;
- Engage mayors to strengthen community ties reinforcing their responsibilities in the fight against malaria.

Celebrating New Appointments at the Roll Back Malaria (RBM) Partnership Board



CS4ME congratulates its members **Hamza Djibo** (ESCAVI) from Niger (right picture) and **Ayo Ipinmoye** (ACOMIN) from Nigeria (left picture) on their recent appointment to the RBM Partnership for Malaria Elimination Board as alternate members of the Board representing civil society. With their experience and proven leadership in global health, we are confident that their contributions will significantly enhance the work of the Council and the Partnership as a whole to advance the shared vision of a malaria-free world.

CS4ME PAYS TRIBUTE TO Dr DAVID WALTON



Appointed by President Joe Biden in August 2022, Dr David Walton (in traditional attire in the photo) is the 4th Global Malaria Coordinator for the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), the U.S. government's largest malaria programme. Under his leadership, the United States and partner countries in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia worked together to provide malaria care services that helped save lives and help communities. Thanks to the generosity of the American people, more than 700 million people at risk benefit from PMI support each year.

SPEAKER ON

Civil Society Making an Impact

– First National Forum on Primary Health Care and Institutionalization of Community Health in Cameroon:

Civil society commits to CHWs



Hosted by the Ministry of Public Health, in November 2024, at the Yaoundé Conference Centre, the Forum sought to prioritize primary healthcare (PHC) and community health in the national agenda. Civil society used the platform to push for greater recognition of Community Health Workers (CHWs).

PHC addresses 82.4% of the health issues faced by Cameroon's population. However, its funding remains inadequate and insufficient, despite its priority in national health policy. To address this, Cameroon has committed to strengthening the Community Health component by engaging communities in addressing their health challenges through the development of a National Community Health Strategy and an investment plan for Community Health.

The platform calls on malaria decision-makers to remove barriers to access for vulnerable populations and reach the 20% still lacking malaria control services.

– CHWs on the front line

Community Health Workers (CHWs) play a central role in the Community Health Interventions (CHIs), a government-led strategy designed to make healthcare more accessible to local communities. The goal is to ensure that at least 80% of the population, who share the

same daily life, culture, and challenges as these workers, adopts healthy habits, preventive measures, and effective management of diseases (like Malaria, Respiratory Infections, Diarrhea, Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, Malnutrition, Onchocerciasis, and diseases preventable by vaccines) at the community level, especially in key areas of focus.

– The Invisible Workforce: CHWs Deserve Better

Community Health Workers (CHWs) are the lifeline of Cameroon's healthcare system, delivering essential services to the most underserved areas. Yet, their efforts go largely unrecognized and undercompensated. CHWs navigate vast territories, often traveling long distances, for a meager monthly incentive of 25,000 FCFA. Despite this, they consult an average of 375 patients annually and 31 each month.

With 9,932 CHWs currently in service—funded mainly by donors like the Global Fund and PMI—Cameroon's healthcare coverage remains inadequate. Only 55% of health districts and 65% of health areas have CHWs. To bridge this gap, the government plans to expand the CHW workforce to 25,000 by 2030. It's time to give these workers the recognition and support they deserve.

CS4ME platform members commit to CHWs

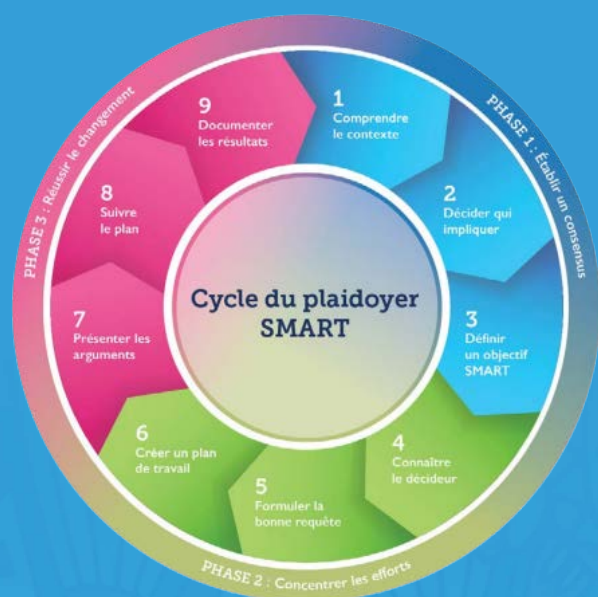


The institutionalization of Community Health Workers (CHWs) is a critical priority for Cameroon. It is imperative for policymakers to take decisive action to ensure the sustainability of this essential workforce, guaranteeing uninterrupted access to healthcare services within communities. Following the Yaoundé forum, approximately 50 civil society organisations, members of the CS4ME platform and advocates for CHWs, urged the Government—through the Ministry of Public

Health—to integrate the following measures into the political agenda:

- **Budgetary Allocation:** Introduce a dedicated budget line within the Ministry of Public Health to fully fund CHWs, with monthly incentives aligned with the Government’s guaranteed minimum interprofessional wage.
- **Expanded Coverage:** Enhance the coverage of health districts by CHWs through increased mobilization of community actors.
- **Universal Health Coverage (UHC):** Prioritize CHWs as a key target group for UHC, alongside pregnant women and children under five.
- **Improved Working Conditions:** Provide personal protective equipment and mobility aids (motorcycles or bicycles) to facilitate access to hard-to-reach areas.
- **Digital Capacity Building:** Strengthen CHWs’ skills in using digital tools for efficient health data collection.
- **Structured Training:** Implement a 12-month training programme divided into two phases: a theoretical component with 4–5 modules per trimester, complemented by internships in local health facilities, culminating in evaluations based on acquired theoretical and practical knowledge.

The mini-guide on how to develop a smart advocacy action plan will be available soon



SMART advocacy is a powerful method for driving change by targeting the right decision-makers who can turn your goals into reality. The SMART acronym—Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-bound—serves as a practical guide to ensure your advocacy efforts are focused and effective. The approach is structured into three phases and nine steps, forming the SMART Advocacy Cycle.

This method helps answer key questions like: How do you find the right person to influence policy? How do you build a strong coalition of supporters? What’s the best way to craft persuasive arguments? How do these arguments lead to action? And how do you achieve the results you’re aiming for?

Whether you’re just starting out or have years of advocacy experience, the SMART approach provides a clear, step-by-step process based on proven strategies and real-world insights from health and development advocates. This mini-guide is your go-to resource for making smart choices and achieving impactful change.

We are still talking about it!

BIANNUAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF CS4ME

Since its creation in 2021, the **Friends of CS4ME** has brought together representatives from international organisations working to combat malaria. This group acts as both an advisory body and a team of champions, supporting CS4ME by:

Funding initiatives to help CS4ME achieve its goals;

- **Providing expert advice** to guide CS4ME's work;
- **Amplifying CS4ME's impact** by championing its efforts on external platforms.

The Friends of CS4ME meet twice a year and are at the forefront of driving civil society and community-led

malaria initiatives. At their July 2024 mid-year meeting, CS4ME showcased its key projects and results, including the **Community Engagement Project (CS4ME, CE SI)** and the **Gender Equality Fund project**, a collaborative effort with Y+ Global and TB Women to mainstream gender in malaria control activities at the community level.

The meeting also focused on ways to strengthen CS4ME's contributions, with participants sharing ideas and recommendations on gender equity, human rights, and community engagement.

LIFE IN THE CS4ME WORKING GROUPS

In September 2024, CS4ME convened an online meeting to restructure and revitalize its working groups, attended by 18 participants. These working groups bring together diverse members of the movement from various countries and backgrounds, contributing their time, expertise, experience, and networks to advance CS4ME's strategic objectives.

The working groups play a critical role in distributing responsibilities among CS4ME members, ensuring that diverse voices and perspectives are incorporated into the design, planning, implementation, and evaluation of CS4ME's initiatives. While participation in these groups is voluntary, they offer members opportunities to develop new skills, gain knowledge, and take on leadership roles. CS4ME provides support

to ensure the effective functioning of these groups and encourages members to commit to at least two years of active participation.

However, it was noted that some members remained inactive or disengaged despite repeated reminders. To address these challenges, the meeting discussed actionable proposals to revitalize the working groups, resulting in the following recommendations:

- **Review the relevance of existing working groups;**
- **Streamline efforts by focusing on the most impactful groups;**
- **Enhance the autonomy of working groups by reducing dependence on the CS4ME secretariat.**

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES TO ADVANCE THE FIGHT AGAINST MALARIA

On December, 2024, CS4ME joined the **Community Connectors Platform** meeting at the Global Fund's headquarters in Geneva. The goal was to harness and amplify the expertise of communities to strengthen the malaria response.

The Community Connector is a dynamic platform that enables the Global Fund Secretariat to tap into community knowledge, share effective strategies, and overcome challenges in implementing policies and programmes. This effort supports the Global Fund's **Communities, Rights, and Gender (CRG) Strategic Initiative**, which highlights the critical role of human rights and gender equality in ending epidemics like HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria.





CIVIL SOCIETY FOR MALARIA ELIMINATION

Call for New CS4ME Steering Committee Members

We are looking for 2 new strong and passionate malaria advocate to join the CS4ME steering committee!

This called is opened to CS4ME members applicants based in Africa and Asia.

How to apply

If you are interested in joining the CS4ME Steering Committee, Please provide your details and expression of interest by filling in the form [here](#). **Women are encouraged to apply.**

Please click [here](#) for details information on this call for applications and the role/expectations of CS4ME steering committee members.



Deadline to apply: Friday, 28th February 2025

Find more about CS4ME: www.cs4me.org or contact the CS4ME Secretariat ,
Impact Santé Afrique secretariat@cs4me.org

STRONGER TOGETHER

Webinars : ADDRESSING URGENT AND RELEVANT TOPICS

In the second half of 2024, CS4ME organized and hosted a series of webinars aimed at sharing knowledge and strengthening the capacities of its member civil society organisations (CSOs) in the fight against malaria. Each session featured an interactive Q&A segment, providing participants with the opportunity to engage directly with internationally renowned experts.

In June, CS4ME welcomed **Dr. Magellan Tchouakui**, a researcher at the Center for Research on Infectious Diseases (CRID), for a webinar on malaria resistance. Additionally, a two-part online training on gender and malaria was held in July and November, with a replay of the first session. This event attracted nearly 165 participants from 61 organisations across 26 countries. The sessions were led by gender experts from the **Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI)** and the **Global Fund**, equipping CSOs with tools to integrate gender considerations into their malaria control activities. Participants also shared their experiences on the topic.

In early November, a webinar titled “**How to Conduct Effective Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEAL)**

of Malaria Control Interventions?” was held, drawing 134 participants from 110 organisations in 31 countries. Laure Vartan Moukam, an expert from **Impact Santé Afrique (ISA)**, emphasized the importance of MEL in ensuring the success of malaria control initiatives

FROM THEORY TO ACTION: how to integrate gender into community-based malaria control activities ?

In July 2024, a webinar moderated by **Maimouna Lehman Mohama**, Technical Advisor on Gender Equity and Diversity at the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), brought together 89 participants from 75 organisations across 21 countries. The session focused on addressing gender-related barriers that continue to hinder access to malaria services—a relatively new but critical consideration for malaria programmes.

Ms. Mohama emphasized the importance of establishing a shared understanding of fundamental gender

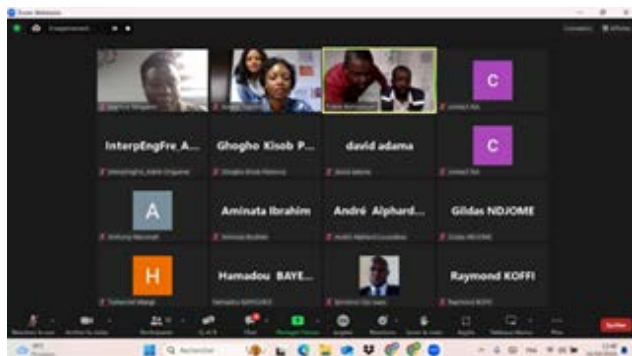
concepts to effectively integrate gender considerations into community-level malaria interventions. She highlighted compelling evidence that reducing gender inequalities can significantly alleviate the burden of malaria. For instance, in Uganda, a 27.6% increase in household farm income achieved through collaboration with women farmers led to a 22% rise in bed net ownership and a 29% reduction in malaria prevalence.

She underscored the unique role of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in:

- **Understanding local gender dynamics** through quantitative and qualitative measures;
- **Collaborating with communities** to integrate gender into local programming;
- **Empowering diverse segments of the population;**
- **Advocating for gender-responsive policies** at all levels (with governments, partners, and donors) to enhance the effectiveness of malaria interventions.

In conclusion, participants were challenged to reflect on the question: “What concrete contribution can you make within your CSO to integrate gender into malaria control efforts in your context?”

CS4ME EMPOWERS CSOS TO MONITOR THE QUALITY OF MALARIA CONTROL INTERVENTIONS



To strengthen the capacity of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), CS4ME hosted a webinar in October 2024, focusing on the **Malaria Intervention Guide** under the Global Fund’s GC7 grant. The event attracted 106 participants from 81 organisations across 20 countries.

The webinar featured a presentation by **Mr. Lazare Roland Owono Fouda**, the consultant who contributed to the development of the guide. He emphasized that effective malaria control at the community level requires the active involvement of multiple stakeholders, including CSOs, Community-Based Organisations (CBOs), and vulnerable populations themselves. To ensure the success of these interventions, it is essential to establish robust monitoring mechanisms.

The session included both theoretical and practical components. Participants were introduced to the key steps of quality monitoring, such as **identifying indicators, data collection, data analysis, and satisfaction assessment**. A practical case study was presented to illustrate these steps in action.

Following frank discussions, participants recommended clarifying the categorization of interventions (prevention, diagnosis, and treatment) in the guide and ensuring alignment between community-provided data and the data utilized in decision-making processes.

DON'T MISS: UPCOMING CS4ME EVENTS

January						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

February						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

January 2025

- CS4ME Annual Meeting of Members
- Launch of the CS4ME Climate and Malaria Initiative (CCMI)

February 2025

- CS4ME Webinar Training on the Mini-Guide on how to elaborate a SMART Advocacy plan



CS4ME

CIVIL SOCIETY FOR MALARIA ELIMINATION

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