

NEWSLETTER CS4ME

CS4ME

CIVIL SOCIETY FOR MALARIA ELIMINATION

HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY-MARCH 2026

ABOUT CS4ME

CS4ME is a global network of civil society organizations (CSOs) and community groups working to combat malaria. It brings together more than 1,000 members, including CSOs and national networks, across 50 countries in Africa and Asia. Since its creation in 2019, CS4ME has worked to strengthen the capacity of its members and unite civil society organizations so they can play a decisive role in driving change and achieving the goal of malaria elimination.

Join the movement and become a CS4ME member by clicking [here!](#)



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SPOTLIGHT

From clinical practice to community leadership: Dr. Francis Akili Cishugi advocates for equity in health



Meet Dr Francis Akili

In a context where health challenges require innovative, inclusive, and community-driven responses, the journey of Dr. Francis Akili Cishugi reflects the emergence of a new generation of African leaders committed to the sustainable transformation of health systems.

A general practitioner specializing in diabetes, metabolic diseases, and hypertension, Dr. Francis Akili Cishugi has more than four years of experience in humanitarian and community health work. His expertise spans health program coordination, clinical research, sexual and reproductive health, as well as epidemic prevention and response.

Action Santé

As the Founder and Executive Secretary of Action Santé, he leads innovative initiatives focused on advocacy, community engagement, domestic resource mobilization, and local capacity strengthening. His work places a strong emphasis on gender, social inclusion, and equitable access to healthcare, in alignment with the goals of Universal Health Coverage and the integrated One Health approach.



Through the “Round for Youth” program, he actively works to position young people as strategic actors in the fight against communicable and non-communicable diseases, while promoting health rights and civic participation. He firmly believes that communities and particularly young people must be at the center of public health solutions.

Currently pursuing a Master’s degree in International Public Health at Senghor University, Dr. Francis Akili Cishugi is further strengthening his expertise in epidemiology, health governance, and applied research to advance evidence-based, high-impact interventions. Inspired by Nelson Mandela’s famous quote, “It always seems impossible until it’s done,” he strongly believes in the ability of African stakeholders to transform health challenges into opportunities for collective progress.

Through his commitment, he aims to contribute actively to global efforts to eliminate malaria, HIV, and tuberculosis, while supporting the strengthening of primary healthcare systems and promoting more inclusive health governance.



REGIONAL NETWORK NEWS



40 stakeholders trained to advance malaria elimination efforts in the Democratic Republic of Congo

In March 2026, a significant milestone was achieved in the fight against malaria in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) with the first quarterly coordination meeting of CS4ME members held in Kinshasa. Organized by Impact Santé Afrique, this strategic meeting brought together approximately 40 stakeholders, including 30 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), representatives of the National Malaria Control Program (NMCP), and technical partners.

A context marked by a high burden of malaria



Family photo of the participants present at the training

The Democratic Republic of Congo remains one of the countries most affected by malaria globally, with more than 29 million cases and over 21,000 deaths recorded in 2024. In response to this alarming situation, strengthening collaboration between national institutions and civil society has become a critical strategy for improving prevention, diagnosis, and access to quality care.

Strengthening CSOs coordination and engagement

The meeting was organized as part of efforts to revitalize the NMCP–CS4ME DRC Task Force, with the primary objective of strengthening CSOs' capacity to participate in a structured and meaningful way in national health processes, particularly the Global Fund's GC8 funding cycle.

Specifically, participants:

- Enhanced their understanding of national malaria priorities;
- Learned more about CS4ME Global's mandate and tools;
- Jointly developed the CS4ME DRC 2026 Action Plan;
- Identified priority advocacy and community mobilization actions;
- Established a framework for sustained coordination among stakeholders.

Strategic discussions on national priorities



Discussions focused on the malaria epidemiological situation in DRC and the priorities outlined in the 2024–2030 National Strategic Plan. The NMCP reaffirmed its ambition to move toward a malaria-free DRC, supported by ambitious targets to reduce malaria incidence and mortality by 2028.

Participants highlighted the critical role of CSOs in community mobilization, advocacy, and social and behavior change communication. Shared experiences underscored the value of community-led initiatives in schools, churches, local communities, and among local authorities.

Key outcomes and next steps

A major highlight of the meeting was the breakout session during which participants collaboratively developed the CS4ME DRC 2026 Action Plan. This exercise helped identify shared priorities, strengthen ongoing initiatives, and improve coordination among stakeholders.

Key outcomes included:

- Increased ownership of CS4ME's mandate and tools among CSOs;
- Adoption of a structured national action plan for 2026;
- Establishment of a schedule for regular coordination meetings;
- Stronger commitment to collaboration between civil society and the PNLP;
- Enhanced readiness to engage in strategic national and international processes.
- Participants also recommended:
- Strengthening CSO involvement in community-based interventions;
- Improving information sharing among stakeholders;
- Developing more coordinated and strategic advocacy efforts;
- Increasing CSO participation in national and international decision-making processes, particularly the GC8 cycle.

A major step forward for civil society engagement

This meeting represents an important step in strengthening the role of civil society in the DRC's malaria response. By fostering stronger coordination, alignment with national priorities, and meaningful engagement in funding and policy processes, it lays the foundation for more

effective collective action.

Aligned with the broader objectives of CS4ME and Impact Santé Afrique, this initiative contributes to accelerating malaria elimination efforts by placing communities and civil society at the center of the response.

MALARIA NEWS



As World Malaria Day, celebrated on April 25 approached, the World Health Organization announced the prequalification of the very first antimalarial treatment specifically designed for newborns and infants weighing between 2 and 5 kg, emphasizing a historic milestone that will enable UNICEF and Gavi to purchase and distribute it in the most affected countries. Around 30 million babies are born every year in malaria-endemic areas across Africa.

SPEAKER ON



Annual Members' Meeting

Tuesday, February 10, 2026 09:00 AM – 11:00 AM GMT

Speakers:



							
Olivia NGOU	Dr Charles ADEKUNLE	Seyni Hassimi Issoufou	Nafissa Tame	Jean Claude Rakotomalala	Inoncent Laison	Cecilia Senoo	Ayo Ipinmoye
CS4ME Global coordinator Impact Santé Afrique	Chief Executive Officer RBM Partnership to End Malaria (RBM)	Program Officer, ONEN Niger	Executive Director, OFIF Cameroon	Executive Director, ASOS Madagascar	Board chair, ITPC-WA Senegal	Director, HFFG Ghana	National Coordinator, ACOMIN Nigeria

Official Guest Speakers

CS4ME (Civil Society for Malaria Elimination), coordinated by Impact Santé Afrique, brought together more than 315 participants from 31 countries across Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe in February 2026. Representing 292 CSOs engaged in the fight against malaria, par-

ticipants joined the network's Annual Members' Meeting to discuss the major challenges facing malaria elimination and identify priorities for action in the context of declining global health funding and preparations for the Global Fund's Grant Cycle 8 (GC8).

More than 300 civil society leaders mobilized for the CS4ME members annual meeting

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A strong call for civil society leadership

Opening the meeting, Olivia Ngou, Global Coordinator of CS4ME, described 2026 as a pivotal year for community engagement in malaria elimination efforts. While acknowledging the growing financial pressures affecting global health programs, she praised the resilience of civil society organizations that continue to serve communities despite increasingly limited resources.

She encouraged CSOs to move beyond waiting for invitations to decision-making spaces and instead position themselves as essential actors within National Malaria Control Programs, Country Coordinating Mechanisms, and national policy discussions. She also called on members to strengthen their leadership, deepen engagement with communities and the private sector, and make full use of CS4ME's advocacy tools.

The “Big Push”, a new framework for malaria elimination

A key moment of the meeting was the presentation by Dr. Charles Adekunle, CEO of the RBM Partnership to End Malaria, who introduced the global “Big Push” initiative.

Against a backdrop of approximately 282 million malaria cases and more than 610,000 deaths worldwide, according to the latest WHO report, Dr. Adekunle stressed the urgent need for stronger coordination and more efficient use of available resources. He explained that the initiative seeks to strengthen country ownership, improve partner coordination, and

maximize the impact of malaria interventions despite funding constraints.

Central to this effort is the recognition that malaria elimination cannot be achieved by the health sector alone. Civil society, communities, and sectors such as education, agriculture, and development all have a critical role to play. He highlighted the importance of stronger surveillance systems, data-driven decision-making, innovation, equitable access to prevention and treatment tools, and greater community accountability.

Honoring a champion of community engagement

The meeting also included a tribute to Pastor Claude Franck Roger Kipemosso, member of the CS4ME Steering Committee and President of the POALP platform in the Republic of Congo.

Recognized as a leading figure in Congolese civil society, Pastor Kipemosso has made significant contributions to strengthening community advocacy and citizen participation in malaria control efforts. Participants paid tribute to his dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to advancing the role of communities in the fight against malaria.

Discussion on the GC8 funding challenges and lessons learned

Several country presentations highlighted the growing impact of funding constraints on malaria programs and the need for stronger civil society engagement in the upcoming GC8 process.

In Guinea, Boubacar Sylla, President of Club des Amis du Monde, shared how CSOs continue to support malaria prevention, community awareness, epidemiological surveillance, and the promotion of healthy behaviors. He highlighted ongoing efforts to expand access to insecticide-treated nets, seasonal malaria chemoprevention, prompt treatment, and the rollout of the malaria vaccine beginning in 2025.

From Cameroon, Nafissa Tamé, Executive Director of **OFIF (Organisation des femmes pour l'Islam sans frontière)**, described the consequences of declining international funding. She noted that Cameroon's Global Fund allocation had been reduced by nearly 10 percent—representing approximately €30 million which has directly affected community and humanitarian interventions. Despite these challenges, stakeholders have developed mitigation strategies through integrated approaches, strengthened partnerships, and the prioritization of essential activities.



Drawing on Madagascar's experience with GC7, Dr. Jean Claude Rakotomalala of **ASOS (Action Socio- sanitaire Organisation de Secours)** shared valuable lessons on community consultations and civil society participation. While the process demonstrated several good practices, challenges included delays in consultant recruitment, limited consultation timelines, insufficient consideration of CSO recommendations, the absence of a malaria-focused CSO sub-recipient, and budget reductions affecting communication, monitoring and evaluation, and capacity-building activities.

These discussions reinforced the importance of preparing civil society organizations for meaningful participation in GC8 and ensuring that communities remain at the center of country dialogues and malaria responses.

Investing in community health workers

The role and financing of Community Health Workers (CHWs) emerged as a major theme throughout the discussions.

Speaking from Senegal, Innocent Laison of ITPC-WA warned that underinvestment in community health systems can lead to staff demotivation, overburdened health facilities, weaker community surveillance, and growing inequalities in access to care. He called for stronger recognition of CHWs, dedicated budget allocations, improved digital monitoring systems, and sustained investments in training and support.

A stronger movement for a malaria elimination

Closing the meeting, CS4ME Steering Committee member Ayo Ipinmoye emphasized that malaria elimination will only be achieved through a broad and inclusive coalition bringing together communities, religious leaders, local authorities, civil society organizations, health professionals, and technical and financial partners.

The 2026 CS4ME Annual Members' Meeting strengthened solidarity among members, facilitated the exchange of experiences across regions, and reaffirmed the essential role of communities in malaria elimination efforts. Despite growing financial challenges, participants renewed their commitment to advocacy, community engagement, and collective action toward a malaria-free world.



MEET THE NEW MEMBERS

Let's celebrate our new members:

51 organizations joined CS4ME to end malaria

Together, we are building a stronger, more inclusive civil society movement that places communities at the heart of malaria elimination efforts.

Thank you for joining us on this journey. Together, we can create a malaria-free future.



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Join CS4ME :
Together, let's #EndMalaria

 www.cs4me.org  @CS4ME  @CS4MEglobal

In the first quarter of 2026

51 Civil Society Organizations joined us
Today we are more than 1000 CSOs in Africa and Asia

WE ARE STILL TALKING ABOUT IT

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CIVIL SOCIETY FOR MALARIA ELIMINATION

Empowered to Act : Capacity Building for Adolescent Girls and Young Women to Lead Malaria Advocacy



Wednesday, March 18, 2026

09:00 am – 11:00 am GMT



En ligne sur zoom.us

Click [here](#) to register

Organized by  **ISA**
IMPACT SANTÉ AFRIQUE CS4ME secretariat
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**GLOBAL NETWORK OF
YOUNG PEOPLE
LIVING WITH HIV**



Strengthening youth leadership: 40 adolescent girls and young Women equipped with advocacy tools for malaria action

On March 18, 2026, the CS4ME Secretariat organized a bilingual webinar aimed at strengthening the advocacy capacity of adolescent girls and young women in the fight against malaria. Held on-line via Zoom, the session brought together 40 participants from five African countries: Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, and Tanzania.

Facilitated by consultant Solange Nodjigonégoto and moderated by Fidèle Bemadoun from Impact Santé Afrique (ISA), the session focused on equipping adolescent girls and young women with practical advocacy tools to enhance their participation in malaria-related decision-making processes.

Building practical advocacy skills

Throughout the training, participants explored key concepts and strategies of advocacy, as well as how malaria governance systems are structured at local, national, continental, and global levels. The session also examined the main steps required to promote meaningful

engagement of adolescent girls and young women in health governance spaces.

Special attention was given to understanding the advocacy cycle and the different mobilization tactics that can be used to influence decision-making processes.

Addressing gender-specific vulnerabilities



Discussions highlighted the heightened vulnerability of adolescent girls and young women to malaria, driven by a combination of biological, social, and economic factors. Participants emphasized the importance of ensuring their meaningful representation in decision-making bodies to support more inclusive and context-responsive malaria policies.

The session also encouraged participants to develop mini advocacy action plans focusing on four key areas: lobbying, communication, technical expertise, and social mobilization. This interactive approach enabled experience-sharing and the development of practical, context-specific solutions across different countries.

Key takeaways

Participants identified several key lessons from the webinar:

- The inclusion of adolescent girls and young women in malaria governance mechanisms is essential;
- Their lived experiences provide valuable insights for improving malaria policies and interventions;
- Gender equality and human rights must be integrated at the core of malaria responses.

The session concluded with a call for participating organizations to develop SMART advocacy plans aimed at strengthening the inclusion of adolescent girls and young women in malaria-related decision-making platforms.

From GC7 to GC8: civil society identifies key priorities to improve malaria funding processes



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Malaria Civil Society Coffee Talk

Theme

Civil society contribution to the development of the Global Fund's GC8 malaria concept notes: what lessons learned from GC7?

 Tuesday, February 3, 2026

 9:00 am – 10:30 am (GMT & Ghana)
10:00 am – 11:30 am (Nigeria)
12:00 am – 13:30 am (Tanzania)

 Online via zoom.us

 Please [click here](#) to register

Organized by  ISA
IMPACT SANTE AFRIQUE CS4ME secretariat

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The CS4ME Malaria Civil Society Coffee Talk serves as a key platform for dialogue and knowledge-sharing among civil society organizations engaged in the fight against malaria. These exchanges contribute to strengthening CSO capacity and improving their understanding of Global Fund processes and strategic engagement opportunities.

The fourth session of the series held in February 2026 brought together 79 participants from 21 countries to reflect on civil society's role in shaping the Global Fund's GC8 concept notes for malaria.

Learning from GC7 to better shape GC8

Discussions focused on lessons learned from the GC7 cycle and how these can be translated into stronger and more effective civil society engagement in GC8. Speakers including Babacar Thiam and Ngolobe Jackson Jimmy, alongside participants from Senegal, Uganda, and the Republic of the Congo, shared experiences highlighting the importance of sustained and structured civil society participation throughout the Global Fund cycle.

Key lessons from GC7 emphasized the need for active civil society engagement at all stages of the process, supported by a clear roadmap

and strong coordination among organizations. Participants also underscored the importance of robust documentation to effectively advocate for community priorities, as well as increased technical assistance and early support to civil society actors.

Another critical lesson was the importance of including organizations of persons with disabilities in national coordination mechanisms, alongside adequate financing and meaningful engagement of communities from the earliest stages of planning.

The discussions converged on several key priorities for GC8, including stronger coordination among civil society organizations, increased participation in inclusive dialogue processes, and greater support for community-led initiatives in the implementation of malaria interventions.

Participants also called for improved recognition and working conditions for community volunteers, as well as better use of local resources to strengthen sustainability and impact.

Overall, the webinar reinforced a clear message: civil society engagement must be systematic, well-resourced, and inclusive to ensure that GC8 delivers stronger and more equitable malaria outcomes.

Regional workshop on GC8: strengthening community participation in francophone africa

Impact Santé Afrique, as CS4ME Secretariat, also participated in the Regional Workshop on Communities and Civil Society organized by the Regional Learning Hub for Francophone Africa (HRF/RAME). The workshop focused on ensuring meaningful participation of communities in the Global Fund's 8th funding cycle (GC8) across Francophone Africa.

The workshop aimed to strengthen the capacity of community and civil society actors to engage effectively in national GC8 processes, build a shared understanding of expectations for community engagement across the grant cycle, and facilitate exchanges on priorities, lessons learned, and best practices. It also supported countries in developing roadmaps for community participation in funding request preparation and grant implementation.

Discussions covered key programmatic

areas across the three diseases as well as health systems strengthening. Participants emphasized the importance of maintaining an integrated approach in all GC8-related planning and implementation processes.

New elements introduced under GC8 were also presented, including updates on technical guidance for malaria interventions, improved strategies for insecticide-treated net distribution and vaccine rollout, and the integration of the "Big Push" framework into malaria planning processes.

Overall, the workshop strengthened the knowledge and readiness of community and civil society representatives, reinforcing their capacity to engage meaningfully in GC8 processes and contribute to more inclusive and effective malaria responses.



TO CONTINUE LEARNING

CS4ME promotes cross-regional learning and civil society preparedness for GC8 malaria response



The webinar titled “Africa-Asia Civil Society Dialogue on Malaria: Community Engagement and the Role of Civil Society, Lessons from the Greater Mekong Region” brought together 325 participants from 57 countries. Organized by CS4ME in collaboration with APMEN and the CSO Platform, the session highlighted the achievements of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), the role of civil society organizations, and the strategic importance of Community-Led Monitoring (CLM).

In a global context marked by uneven progress in malaria elimination, the Greater Mekong Subregion stands out as a strong example of sustained reduction in malaria burden over the past decade. Discussions emphasized that this progress was driven not only by biomedical interventions, but also by strong community engagement, coordinated action, and inclusive governance mechanisms.

The webinar drew on lessons from the GMS, including findings from a study conducted by Impact Santé Afrique (ISA), in its role as CS4ME Secretariat. The region was presented as a strategic reference point for strengthening community-driven approaches in Africa and accelerating malaria elimination efforts.

Key lessons highlighted during the discussion included the need for robust social, political, and community-based approaches that complement biomedical strategies. Experiences from Cambodia, Tanzania, Uganda, and Niger further demonstrated the importance of civil society engagement, stronger coordination frameworks, and sustained advocacy at national level. Participants also stressed the value of integrated Community-Led Monitoring approaches across multiple diseases.



Participants recommended strengthening institutional coordination mechanisms, enhancing domestic advocacy to mobilize sustainable resources, promoting integrated malaria and health system approaches, and maintaining strong community vigilance to prevent malaria resurgence.

The webinar reaffirmed that malaria elimination is a shared responsibility requiring sustained collaboration between governments, civil society, and communities.



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Contact us

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