

## RBM Vector Control Working Group

### A brief update to VCWG-17 annual virtual meeting in March and May 2022

#### About the RBM Vector Control Working Group

Vector control has been shown to achieve quick and remarkable reductions in malaria transmission in many eco-epidemiological settings. It remains key to achieving malaria elimination.

The 2021 WHO World Malaria Report illustrated a decline in the gains against malaria; there were 241 million cases and ca. 627 000 deaths in 2020 (an increase from preceding years). Several factors contributed to this, including, but not limited to; insecticide resistance in vector mosquitoes, limitations around financial support, gaps in the vector control toolbox and challenges for National Programs to meet the needs of entomological monitoring with scarce resources available. There is an urgent need for innovation and new tools to expand the current intervention paradigms and increase opportunities for more cost-effective and sustainable vector control.

The VCWG therefore promotes basic research and development into new tools, and the translation of vector control priorities into operational research, combining the input of its constituent national and international academia/research and private sector development partners. Through increased collaboration with Regional Networks the VCWG ensures that their specific needs are fully considered in deliberations on global malaria strategies.

Within a resource constrained environment, knowledge sharing is key. The diversity of the VCWG membership allows for rich dialogue and mutual learning for the development of more robust and adaptive responses to challenges associated with enhancing the impact of core interventions (ITNs and IRS), expanding the vector control toolbox and implementing the WHO Global Vector Control Response. The VCWG provides a forum where all the partners from country programs, international organisations, academia, the private sector and others, can come together to build consensus on the challenges, gaps and opportunities in vector control.

#### Functions of the Working Group

The VCWG has a role to support the implementation of Vector Control Guidance generated by WHO and to galvanise efforts towards achieving specific country and global malaria elimination targets.

The Working Group does that through the following specific activities:

**Convene:** VCWG convenes meetings, workshops, and other forums to develop consensus among stakeholders through adaptation and implementation of WHO norms and standards and to share innovations and experiences.

Co-ordinate: VCWG supports and co-ordinates dialogue between national programs, product manufacturers, academia and implementers to understand each other's needs, find innovative solutions and stimulate appropriate research and development.

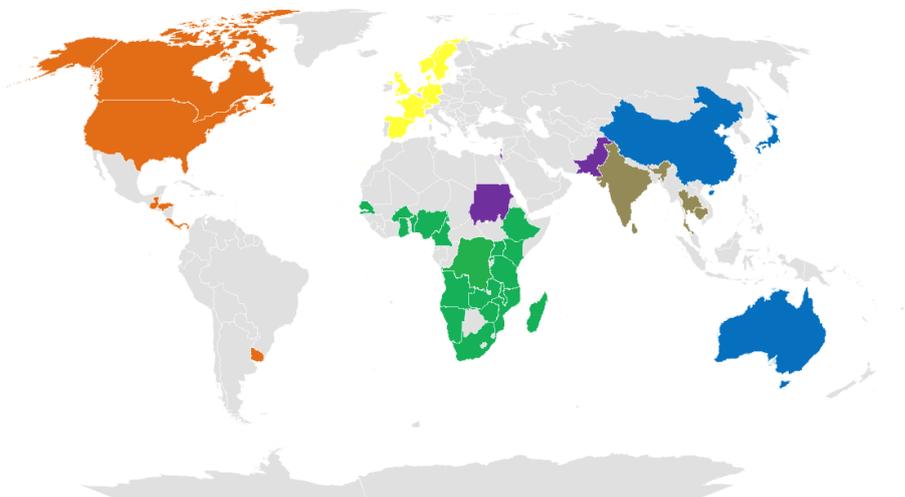
Facilitate Communication: VCWG has a very diverse membership, and our annual meetings and Workstream Task Teams provide unique opportunities for connection and networking around specific areas of interest. VCWG also works with other RBM Working Groups and Partner Committees, as appropriate, to provide detailed input on vector control related topics.

### [RBM VCWG Code of Conduct](#)

For further information, please refer to the [VCWG Revised Terms of Reference](#) adopted in April 2018 following the 9th RBM Partnership Board meeting. The governance and management of the group follows the [Working Group Standard Operating Procedures \(SOPs\)](#).

## The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Vector Control Working Group

This year, the RBM VCWG-17 meeting was virtual again, after the great experience of last years' meeting. We counted 311 participants. The participants were from 48 different countries. Of the 48 countries represented, 31 countries are malaria affected and 17 are malaria free.



Graph 1. Countries represented at VCWG Annual Meeting 2022. The different colors show the WHO regions.

**AFRO:** Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

**AMRO:** Costa Rica, Canada, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Puerto Rico, Uruguay, USA

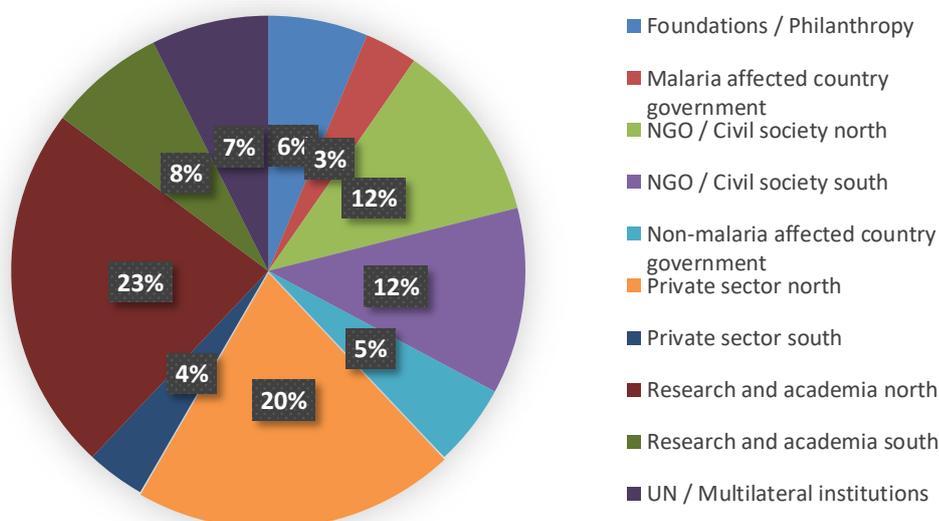
**EURO:** Denmark, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom

**EMRO:** Israel, Pakistan, Sudan

**WPRO:** Australia, China, Japan

**SEARO:** Cambodia, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand

## Constituencies



Graph 2. Constituencies represented at the VCWG-17 annual meeting.

27% of the participants are affiliated with organizations based on malaria affected countries. From those 3% are linked with government, 12% with NGO/ civil society, 8% with research and academia and 4% with private sector. 73% of the participants are affiliated with organizations based on malaria free countries. From those 23% are linked with research and academia, 12% with NGO/ civil society, 20% with private sector, 7% with UN/ multilateral institutions, 5% with government, 6% with foundations. For a full overview please consult graph 2. In total our participants represented 126 different organizations and affiliations.

### Gender balance

In regards to the gender balance, 42% of the participants are female and 56% are male and 2% preferred not to answer.

### Speakers

60 speakers and moderators took part in the 5 sessions.

### VCWG network

Vector control specialists from around the world receive the newsletter (twice per year) and vector control news, project updates, publications, event reminders, guidelines and job advertisement through the mailing list (over 1900 subscribers as of May 2022).

### Registration fee and sponsoring

A reduced registration fee covered this year's costs around the event platform which hosts the virtual sessions. The annual meeting welcomed partners and participants who joined on their own costs (EUR 30). The participation of selected affected-countries at the annual meeting (registration fee waiver) ensured with funds by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) through the GlobMal project at Swiss TPH.