



OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF **COPEMA** THE COALITION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS ENGAGED TO END MALARIA IN AFRICA



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Virtual Access possible by invitation only.

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AfricaCDC
Centres for Disease Control
and Prevention



**World Health
Organization**



**THE
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I. CONTEXT

Malaria remains one of the leading causes of mortality and morbidity in Africa, affecting millions of people every year. According to the WHO World Malaria Report 2024, **600,000 deaths** in 2023 were recorded due to malaria **13.7 deaths per 100,000** exposed inhabitants. **Africa accounts for 94% of global malaria cases and 95% of global malaria deaths.** The burden of this preventable and treatable disease disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, **including children under five and pregnant women.** Despite decades of progress, achieving malaria elimination across the continent requires sustained political will and coordinated action across national and regional levels.

Despite significant progress in malaria control over the past decades, the goal of eliminating malaria remains at risk due to stagnating funding, operational challenges, and emerging threats such as insecticide and drug resistance. The recent disruptions in international malaria programs have further exacerbated the situation, leaving millions of people vulnerable, with projections estimating 1.8 million malaria deaths in 2025 if urgent action is not taken.

Achieving malaria elimination requires sustained political will, strategic investments, and evidence-based decision-making. Strengthening collaboration between policymakers, technical malaria experts, and NMCP managers is critical to ensuring that policy decisions are guided by technical expertise and real-world implementation experience.

Recognizing the vital role of policymakers in shaping health priorities, the Coalition of Parliamentarians to End Malaria in Africa (COPEMA) was established following the Africa Malaria Ministerial meeting in March 2024 in Cameroon, which emerged from the Yaoundé Declaration. In January 2025, countries in Africa were affected by the brutal interruption of international malaria programs in high-risk areas. From this, millions of people in Africa are now in vulnerable positions and will inevitably suffer if nothing is done. There is an estimation of 1.8 million deaths in 2025 due to malaria if urgent measures are not implemented in countries. The role of parliamentarians in mobilizing domestic resources and establishing key national policies to create an ecosystem favorable for malaria elimination in Africa is essential.

COPEMA envisions an Africa free from malaria, where parliamentarians are agents of change, leveraging their power and impactful actions to support malaria elimination efforts.

While political leadership is crucial for resource mobilization and advocacy, malaria elimination strategies must be informed by technical expertise and data-driven insights. National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) managers and technical experts are responsible for implementing malaria interventions at the national level and possess firsthand knowledge of malaria. To ensure that policy decisions are evidence-based and grounded in real-world challenges, it is essential to strengthen collaboration between NMCPs, malaria experts, and parliamentarians. By integrating technical expertise into advocacy and policy discussions, policymakers can make informed decisions that maximize impact and cost-effectiveness.

COPEMA, in collaboration with its secretariat Impact Santé Afrique and its strategic partners, the National malaria programs of GHANA, Afrika Kwanza Health Impact, Hope for Future Generations, Global Fund, AFRICA CDC, WHO, the Pan African Parliament, RBM partnership to end malaria will hold its first **Regional Strategic Meeting and Launch from the 28th to the 29th of April 2025 in Accra, Ghana.** This meeting marks a key moment for COPEMA to solidify its foundation and outline its 2025–2026 action plan, truly reflecting on the crucial role parliamentarians will play during unprecedented health challenges in Africa.

The COPEMA holds its first Regional Strategic Meeting and Launch, presenting a key opportunity to bring together policymakers and NMCP managers to align strategies, strengthen domestic financing, and ensure that malaria response efforts are driven by evidence and real-world implementation experience.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE COPEMA FIRST STRATEGIC MEETING AND LAUNCH EVENT

This meeting will serve as a platform to:

1. Strengthen collaboration between policymakers and national malaria control programs (NMCPs)

- Foster engagement between parliamentarians and NMCPs to ensure malaria policies are aligned with technical realities and implementation challenges.
- Strengthen coordination with Ministries of Health, Africa CDC, African Parliament, GFAN Africa, CS4ME, WHO, RBM Partnership Global Fund, Afrika Kwanza Health Impact, ALMA, and other partners to advance malaria elimination efforts.

2. Inform and equip parliamentarians for effective malaria advocacy

- Provide an overview of the current malaria burden, critical gaps, and barriers to malaria service delivery, drawing insights from national malaria control programs experiences.
- Update parliamentarians on global and regional commitments, including the Yaoundé Declaration, the 2030 malaria goals, and key frameworks for malaria elimination.
- Introduce tools and innovative solutions to end malaria in Africa.
- Equip parliamentarians with knowledge and advocacy tools to support evidence-based policy decisions and budget allocations for malaria programs.
- Brief parliamentarians on the Global Fund 8th Replenishment and its role in financing malaria programs.



3. Validate and Strengthen COPEMA's Structure and Strategic Plan

- Endorse COPEMA's operational mechanisms and governance structure to ensure effective leadership and coordination.
- Validate the COPEMA 2025–2026 action plan, securing firm commitments from parliamentarians to:
- Champion malaria elimination at the country and regional levels.
- Advocate for Domestic Resource Mobilization to sustain malaria programs.
- Support the Global Fund replenishment campaign.
- Promote multi-sectoral engagement, accountability mechanisms, and community participation in malaria response.

4. Officially Launch COPEMA as a Key Parliamentary Platform for Malaria Elimination

- Announce COPEMA's establishment and commitments, positioning it as a leading platform for parliamentary action on malaria.
- Ensure NMCPs contribute to high-level advocacy efforts with data-driven insights, highlighting the impact of funding gaps on malaria interventions.

This meeting will mark a pivotal moment for parliamentary engagement in malaria elimination, driving sustainable action, policy influence, and long-term resource mobilization to accelerate progress toward a malaria-free Africa.

III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The COPEMA Strategic Meeting and Launch Event is expected to deliver the following key outcomes:

1. Strengthened Collaboration Between Policymakers and NMCPs

- Enhanced engagement between parliamentarians and NMCPs ensuring malaria policies are aligned with technical realities and implementation needs.
- Strengthened coordination with key malaria partners, including Ministries of Health, Africa CDC, African Parliament, GFAN Africa, CS4ME, WHO, RBM Partnership Global Fund, Afrika Kwanza Health Impact, ALMA, and other partners, and other stakeholders to support malaria elimination efforts.

2. Informed and Empowered Parliamentarians for Effective Malaria Advocacy

- Increased awareness among parliamentarians on the current malaria burden, critical gaps, and service delivery challenges, with evidence-based insights from NMCPs.
- Parliamentarians equipped with knowledge, tools, and data to drive policy action and advocate for sustainable domestic malaria financing.
- More substantial parliamentary commitment to support and sustain Global Fund malaria financing, ensuring a successful 8th Replenishment campaign.
- A better understanding of global and regional malaria commitments, such as the Yaoundé Declaration and the 2030 malaria goals, as well as the role of policymakers in malaria elimination.

3. Validated COPEMA Governance Structure and Strategic Action Plan

- Official endorsement of COPEMA's operational mechanisms and governance structure, ensuring an effective and well-coordinated parliamentary network for malaria advocacy.
- Adoption of the COPEMA 2025–2026 action plan

4. Official Launch of COPEMA as a Key Parliamentary Platform for Malaria Elimination

- Formal announcement of COPEMA as a recognized parliamentary coalition dedicated to advancing malaria elimination in Africa.
- Institutionalization of high-level parliamentary advocacy as a core component of national malaria strategies.
- Commitment to ensuring NMCPs actively contribute to malaria policy discussions, providing real-time data to shape effective advocacy and decision-making.

IV. OVERALL IMPACT

- Greater political will and leadership for malaria elimination in Africa.
- Increased domestic financing and sustained commitment to malaria control and elimination.
- Improved policy alignment with technical and implementation realities, ensuring impactful interventions.
- A more coordinated, multi-sectoral approach to malaria elimination, driving long-term sustainability.
- This meeting will catalyze parliamentary action, ensuring malaria remains a political and financial priority at all levels, ultimately accelerating Africa's progress toward a malaria-free future.

