



AFRICAN LEADERS
MALARIA ALLIANCE



X Space (formerly Twitter Space)

Theme: Bridging the Gap: Youth in Digitalization, Malaria and Climate Action

Date: Friday 09th August August 2024

Time : 16:00hrs – 17:30hrs EAT

Venue : X (formerly Twitter)

Handle : @Amref_Worldwide

Event hashtag : #FromClicksToProgress #ZeroMalariaStartsWithMe

X Space Link: TBC

Background

In 1999, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the recommendation by the World Conference of Ministers of Youth (Lisbon, 8-12 August 1998) that August 12 be declared International Youth Day (A/RES/54/120). Over the last two decades, the annual International Youth Day celebrations have covered a wide array of themes relevant to young people, from food security and mental health to intergenerational solidarity and green skills, highlighting critical connections between youth and sustainable development.

The objectives of International Youth Day 2024, under the theme “*From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development*,” highlight the key connection between digitalization and accelerating SDG progress, emphasizing the pivotal role of young people in this transformative process. Specifically, it aims to:

1. Explore the instrumental role of technologies and data in accelerating efforts towards achieving SDGs, including the role of young people in advancing digital transition.
2. Showcase diverse youth-led and focused digital solutions and innovations at the global and national levels that contribute to sustainable development.
3. Provide a knowledge base for stakeholders, such as youth, civil society, and national governments, as well as relevant UN agencies, to access data and insights on the topic.

X- Space Introduction

Building on this year’s International Youth Day theme, the RBM Partnership, Y-ACT, Speak Up Africa and the African Leaders Malaria Alliance will host an X space to mark this year’s IYD under the theme ‘*Bridging the Gap: Youth in Digitalization, Malaria and Climate Action*. It is evident that climate change is a threat to eliminating vector-borne diseases such as malaria, as highlighted in the World Malaria Report 2023: the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimates that an additional 51 to 62 million people will be exposed to malaria by the 2030s, even under moderate greenhouse gas emissions scenarios and children, youth and women are the most affected. In the face of urgent global challenges, the intersection of youth engagement, digitalization, malaria prevention, and climate action presents a unique opportunity for innovative solutions and collaborative efforts.

It is against this backdrop that we will host a one-hour-and-a-half Twitter youth space discussion on Friday, August 9th, 2024, to support the amplification of the youth and senior leaders' work to end malaria in Africa by

showcasing the role of digital solutions to address the impact of climate change and other threats that accelerate malaria in Africa.

Thematic focus

a) Youth in Digitalization

Amid this digitalization, young people have higher access to digital technologies compared to other demographic groups, according to the comparative analysis of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Social Inclusion shows that worldwide, 75 per cent, or three-quarters, of young people aged 15 to 24 used the internet in 2022, a rate 10 per cent higher than the rest of the age groups. On the other hand, the digital divide and inequalities persist, especially in low-income countries, and in terms of gender, women have less access to the internet than men globally. Similarly, there is also a gap in digital skills acquisition; adolescent girls and young women tend to have limited digital skills compared to their male counterparts. While these challenges draw attention to the urgent need to accelerate digital inclusion, young people are largely considered “digital natives” because of their age and early technology exposure.

b) Malaria and Climate Action

According to the World Health Organization, climate change is called the single biggest threat facing humanity. Climate change is already placing marginalized populations at greater risk of economic hardship, malnutrition and diseases like malaria. As Malaria is endemic in low-resource settings, and these are also the region's most heavily impacted by climate-related disasters, the climate crisis threatens to undo the progress already made in saving lives and controlling malaria in endemic countries while introducing new challenges that could slow future progress this can be averted by the efforts of young people in Africa to curb effects of climate change as a leading contributor to malaria.

Draft X space agenda

	Activity	Responsible
16:00-16:10	Introduction of the Space and Speakers	Moderator: Richard Dzikunu Eunice Eleanor *Francophone
16:10-16:15	Opening Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barbara Laurenceau - RBM Partnership to End Malaria
16:15- 16:30	Youth as Digital Actors in Advancing Health and Climate Action in Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rebecca Kausa – National Advocacy Coordinator -Y-ACT James Wallen, Senior Health Advocacy Advisor - Speak Up Africa
16:30-16:40	Deep dive – from climate change threats to <i>Zero Malaria – sharing tangible best practices and workable actions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Promesse Chrys Kaniki Senior Technical Officer for Strategic Programs - Africa CDC Zeinaba Narabene- President of the Sahelian Youth Climate Network in Mali
16:40-16:55	<i>Policy recommendations: How can young people bridge the gap in Digitalization, Malaria and Climate Action</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verite Karangwa -Y-ACT YSC Member Vivian Joseph – Southern Africa Youth Forum Head of Health Cluster
16:55-17:00	Q&A	Co-Moderators : Helena Ngaifiwa Eunice Eleanor *Francophone
17:00-17:15	Closing	

Outcomes

- Call to action to International Youth Day Partners activities as opportunities for young people to engage and take part e.g Pedal Against Malaria , International Youth Day Webinars (, 6th SADC Youth Forum, Africa Health Agenda International Conference (AHAIC) ,Africa CDC Youth Pre-Conference during the Conference on Public Health in Africa and more
- Create skills and knowledge exchange among young people and senior leaders in the health framework who are at the forefront of adopting new technologies and medicines to address health challenges, e.g., malaria vaccines and scorecards.
- The Twitter Space will raise awareness about the interconnectedness of health and climate issues and the role of digital tools in addressing these challenges. There will be greater public awareness and understanding of the need for integrated approaches to health and climate action.
- Guidance for youth and partner organizations on how to tap into emerging trends for effective health and climate action. room for future potential collaborations amongst us?