

Advocacy for Resource Mobilization Workshop

Libreville, Gabon
September 17, 2014

The Ministry of Health of Gabon, with the support of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership Malaria Advocacy Working Group (MAWG) and the Sub Regional Network for Central Africa (CARN), organized a three-day workshop on advocacy for resource mobilization for the national fight against malaria in Libreville from September 15 to 17, 2014. Speak Up Africa facilitated the workshop, which brought together over 30 people from the National Malaria Control Program, the TB control program, the HIV control program, the Parliament, the Ministries of Economy and Agriculture, WHO, UNDP, NGOs and from civil society organizations. Several private sector companies such as Shell, Total, Water and Electricity National Company and OLAM also joined the discussions and activities.

The newly developed Advocacy Resource Mobilization (ARM) Toolkit was deployed to help Gabon develop a national advocacy resource mobilization plan based on their funding needs. Gabon follows Sierra Leone in piloting this Toolkit which provided participants with a step-by-step approach to develop in-country advocates, and mobilize resources for the fight against malaria based on country level relationships, engagement, and evidence.

The CARN coordinator emphasized that this process will ultimately support the development of an advocacy plan, a business plan and the organization of a national donor roundtable in light of the NMCP's goal to diversify its source of funding.

The main recommendations from this three-day workshop were as follows:

- 1. In terms of country capacity building ;** the identification of a focal point within the National Malaria Control program in charge of monitoring all activities related to advocacy.
- 2. Regarding the implementation of the Malaria Resource Mobilization Toolkit ;** there is need for technical assistance from the RBM Malaria Advocacy Working Group for the development of the advocacy for resource mobilization plan. Participants also recommended the creation of a working group to implement the recommendations of the workshop and lead the development of the national advocacy plan for resource mobilization.
- 3. The elaboration of a business plan for the National Malaria Control Program ;** there is a strong need for continuous technical assistance from RBM Sub Regional Network for Central Africa until the upcoming roundtable for resource mobilization, scheduled to be held in November 2014. This will require close collaboration between all the partners involved in the process.
- 4. Finally, regarding partnership building ;** participants insisted on the creation of a coordination mechanism that will bring together all active technical and financial partners.