

RBM Multi-Sectoral Working Group

A brief update to MSWG-4 annual virtual meeting in June 2021

About the RBM Multi-Sectoral Working Group

Essential progress has been made in the past decade to reduce malaria globally. Over 6 million lives were saved as a result of a scale-up of malaria interventions. However, the latest World Malaria Report 2020 alerts that after an unprecedented period of success in global malaria control, progress has stalled.

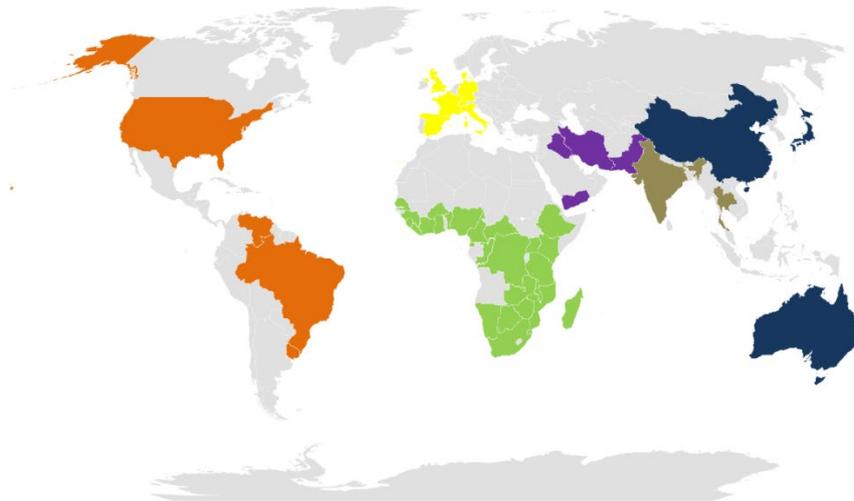
Multi-sectoral collaboration is key in light of the challenges faced in malaria control and elimination including insecticide and drug resistance, mobility of populations, risk perception, sustainable human settlements, poverty, disasters (natural & man-made), outdoor transmission, climate change and funding shortfalls.

To end malaria for good, we need the concerted action of different stakeholders across different sectors beyond the health sector, as well as intra-sectoral collaboration. The Sustainable Development Goals calling for action to transform societies give further impetus for a Multi-Sectoral Working Group (MSWG). The MSWG has been established under the umbrella of the RBM Partnership to End Malaria, following approval by the RBM Board in April 2018. The MSWG convenes and coordinates RBM Partnership members around a multi-sectorial action in the field of malaria to facilitate learning and share best practices from the field.

The MSWG brings together different stakeholders across different sectors including: health, science & technology, oil & gas, international cooperation (cross border), housing, infrastructure, extraction industries, water & sanitation, environment, food & agriculture, education, immigration, tourism, customs, security, finance, trade, political, private, civil society, labour, research & development, media, information & communications technology, social protection & justice. The aim is to align partners in their actions for new interventions as well as putting new life into those that already exist, and coordinate and manage these in new and innovative ways.

The 4th Annual Meeting of the Multi-Sectoral Working Group

This year, the MSWG-4 meeting was virtual, due to the current COVID-19-pandemic. We counted 264 registrants, the highest number up to date! The participants are from 52 different countries, representing all WHO regions (AFRO, AMRO, EURO, EMRO, WPRO, SEARO). Of the 52 countries represented, 38 countries are malaria affected and 14 are officially malaria free.



Graph 1. Countries and WHO regions represented at MSWG-4 annual virtual meeting.

AFRO: Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Guinea, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

AMRO: Brazil, Uruguay, USA, Venezuela

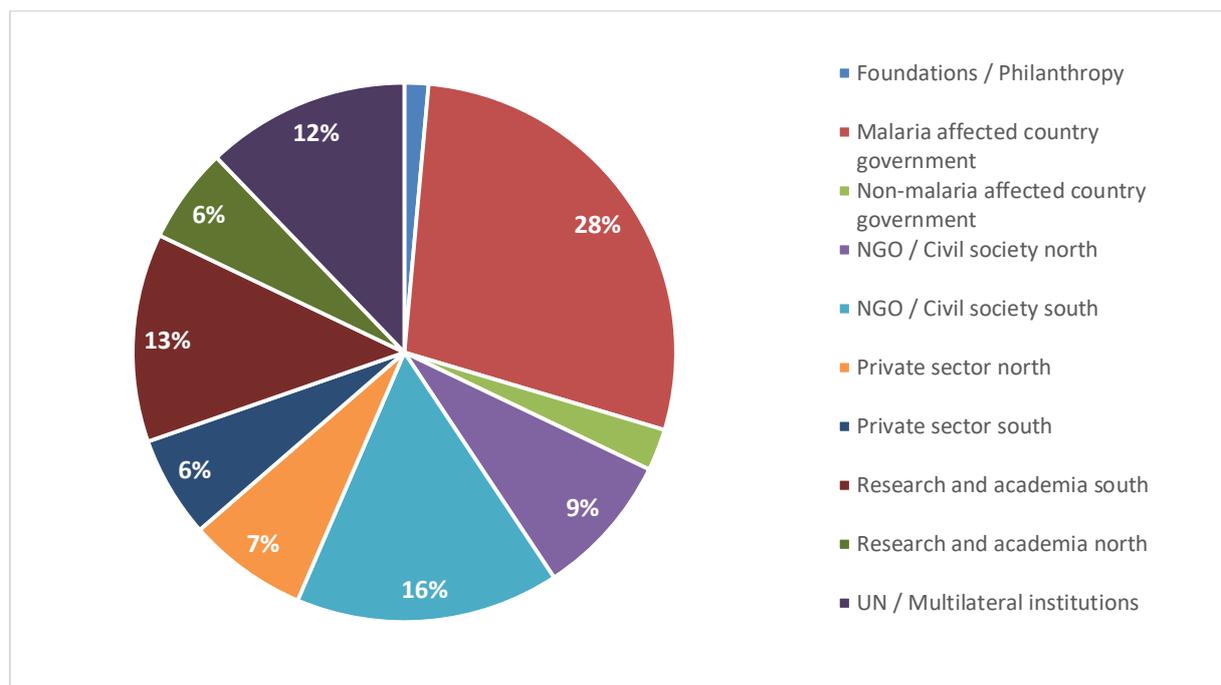
EURO: Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom

EMRO: Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Yemen

WPRO: Australia, China, Japan

SEARO: India, Thailand

Constituencies



Graph 2. Constituencies represented at the MSWG-4 annual virtual meeting.

63% of the participants are affiliated with organizations based on malaria affected countries. From those 28% are linked with government, 16% with NGO/ civil society, 13% with research and academia and 6% with private sector.

37% of the participants are affiliated with organizations based on malaria free countries. From those 3% are linked with government, 6% with research and academia, 9% with NGO/ civil society, 6% with private sector, 12% with UN/ multilateral institutions and 1% with foundations. For a full overview please consult graph 2.

In total our participants represented 148 organizations and affiliations.

Gender balance

In regards to the gender balance, 40% of the participants are female and 60% are male.

Speakers

34 speakers and moderators took part in the 3 sessions.

MSWG network

The Working Group members from around the world receive news, project updates, publications, event reminders, guidelines and job advertisement through the mailing list (over 300 subscribers as of July 2021).

Waived registration fee

A waived registration fee for all MSWG-4 registrants was possible due to the generous financial support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) through the GlobMal project at Swiss TPH.