



UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM (UNCT) IN UGANDA

United Nations calls for more action against Malaria in Uganda

The United Nations in Uganda calls on government and other partners to scale up the fight against malaria using known and effective interventions like case management, vector control, surveillance monitoring and evaluation.

The first World Malaria Day is commemorated globally today 25 April 2008 under the theme: **“Malaria – a disease without borders”**. In Africa, the slogan: **“United to Combat Malaria”** has been added to underscores the urgent need to scale up malaria control interventions.

“We must recognize that the vision of eliminating malaria will only become reality through countrywide implementation of interventions,” said Dr. Melville George, the World Health Organization (WHO) Country Representative for Uganda. This, he added, will require “improved governance and accountability, increased advocacy, better communication, social education and mobilization, and predictable and sustainable financing from governments and development partners.” Dr George also called for more coordination of the efforts of all stakeholders in the public and private sectors and in civil society, noting, “There is need to strengthen health systems and community-based interventions to consolidate and sustain achievements”.

Adding his voice to the call to action, the United Nation’s Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Representative, Mr. Keith McKenzie, called for a sustained effort to control malaria, stressing that the “disease is the number-one killer of children in Uganda; a disease that is curable, preventable and controllable by the increased use of mosquito nets and other prevention interventions, as part of integrated, community-based programmes.”

Mr. McKenzie noted that increased awareness about malaria has contributed to a significant rise in available resources over recent years, which are now facilitating the rapid improvements and scaling-up of malaria intervention coverage. “If this ‘disease without borders’ is to be controlled, interventions must be further scaled up, sustained financing must be made available, and community involvement and leadership must be encouraged, alongside stronger global, regional and national partnerships,” he concluded.

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