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Malaria : status report

CONSTANCE BART PLANGE

National Malaria Control Program - Ghana

- Malaria it is a big menace in the country. About 3 million people are getting malaria every year. And for children under 5 years, in fact all deaths...malaria contributes to about a quarter of the deaths.

AWA-MARIE COLL-SECK

Executive Director - Roll Back Malaria Partnership

- Malaria can manifest itself in different ways. It starts with a simple headache and a little bit of fever. The headache can get stronger and be accompanied by stomach cramps, fever and vomiting. Sometimes brain trouble can appear leading to a coma. In the worst case people can die from malaria

ELIZABETH JUMA

National Malaria Control Program - Kenya

- Malaria in Kenya is still a big problem. It still accounts for nearly 30 % of outpatient visits to hospital and nearly 15% of hospital admission.

ROBERT NEWMAN

World Health Organization - Director of the Global Malaria Program

- Malaria remains a tragic thing. There is no excuse for people dying from malaria today. We have the tools to prevent and to treat malaria. Despite that tragically an estimated 840 000 people died of malaria in 2008. And 90 % of those are children South of the Sahara in Africa.

CONSTANCE BART PLANGE

National Malaria Control Program - Ghana

- The main challenges are making sure that you have the drugs available and cheap so that both the public sector and the private sector can get the drugs. Second, making sure the nets are available and distributed to all the people and they will sleep in them. Third, make sure pregnant women will take their drugs.

ELIZABETH JUMA

National Malaria Control Program - Kenya

- Another challenge is getting people to use this intervention, information, communication to get people to go to the hospital to get quick treatment for malaria when they fall sick. We need to do more communication.

You must take him or her to the district medical center as soon as you see the first symptoms.

The quicker the patient gets treatment, the sooner he is cured.

AWA-MARIE COLL-SECK

Executive Director - Roll Back Malaria Partnership

- Malaria today has a treatment, which is recommended by everybody, especially the World Health Organization, an artemisinin-based combination therapy.

We would like a surveillance to take place to monitor any unpredictable side effects.

CONSTANCE BART PLANGE

National Malaria Control Program - Ghana

- There are a lot of partners coming on board now. They are mobilizing all the funds and the money available. Look at the Global Fund, the President's Malaria Initiative, USAID, World Bank... All of them, partners are coming together.

WILFRED MBACHAM

University of Yaounde - Cameroon

- In the last five years, malaria has seen a lot of progress: progress in how much partners have come on board with enormous resources, progress in terms of the discoveries that have been made that are leading to new medications, and now progress is being made in how people can be unified in the fight against malaria.

AWA-MARIE COLL-SECK

Executive Director - Roll Back Malaria Partnership

- Ten years ago, only 60 million dollars were invested by the international community to fight against this plague. Today almost 2 billion dollars are spent. Regarding financing many things have changed.

MICHEL KAZATCHKINE

Executive Director of the Global Fund

- The Global Fund is a major contributor to the fight against malaria in term of financing. We are a financing institution. Since 2002 to 2009 we have contributed two thirds of all of the international money available for malaria.

OGOBARA DOUMBO

Director Malaria Research and Training Center – Bamako - Mali

- We should keep on developing new products, new drugs. Indeed resistances have been detected. Prevention should be encouraged. Vaccines are in development.

ROBERT NEWMAN

World Health Organization - Director of the Global Malaria Program

- The malaria vaccine would be a wonderful tool to have. There is a vaccine that is in testing right now in multicenter trial. The results of that are going to be very important to look at. If it continues to show that it is preventing clinical malaria and preventing severe malaria this could be a very valuable tool.

AWA-MARIE COLL-SECK

Executive Director - Roll Back Malaria Partnership

- Today many people speak about malaria. There has been a lot of progress in many countries and there are more resources. We need to have hope.

WILFRED MBACHAM

University of Yaounde - Cameroon

- Eradication is the highest attainable ideal in the fight against malaria. Whether we attain it or we don't attain it, it is about the best way to go. We may never get to the stars but we use the stars to navigate our path towards stardom. So I think that eradication is just like the stars.

We would like to thank all the participants of the 8th Pan-African National Malaria Control Programs Meeting, which took place in Nairobi (Kenya) in November 2009 , to have agreed to share their views about malaria.