

Nairobi, Kenya  
May 9, 2023

Each year, at its annual partners' meeting, the Alliance for Malaria Prevention's (AMP) Core Group selects countries or individuals to receive awards for exceptional performance in the fight against malaria. Given the enormous accomplishments of 2022 – more than 191 million insecticide-treated nets (ITNs) distributed through mass campaigns, representing over 80% of the number of nets planned for distribution through this channel – the decisions this year were again very difficult. Indeed, the AMP Core Group congratulates all the national malaria programmes and partners that have worked to keep progress on track, making significant efforts to ensure that ITN distributions, through both campaign and continuous channels, as well as other vector control interventions, were implemented as planned.

In 2020, the AMP Partnership lost two major leaders, supporters, and friends. These individuals worked to keep malaria high on the agenda in their countries, to use data for decision-making, and to ensure leadership and capacity-building of their teams. The AMP Core Group honours their inspiring work by providing awards in their names.

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## Chad National Malaria Control Programme

The AMP Core Group is pleased to present its award for leadership in honour of the late Dr. Samuel Juana Smith, the esteemed Programme Manager of the Sierra Leone National Malaria Control Programme. Dr. Smith worked tirelessly to combat malaria especially in children under five and pregnant women who are particularly affected by the disease. His leadership was critical for the country to accelerate progress against malaria with a focus on integrated

interventions. This year's award for leadership goes to Dr Mahamat Saleh Issakha DIAR and the entire team of the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) in Chad.

Chad is being proudly recognized for successfully coordinating, planning, and implementing a nationally led campaign for which planning started in 2022 for a timely roll out in 2023. The NMCP completed the large-scale digitalization pilot and first phase of full implementation in line with the campaign timelines. In organizing the 2023 campaign, the NMCP in Chad, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has managed a few exceptional feats:

- Bringing on a new partner, the Against Malaria Foundation (AMF), to the campaign without significant challenges or delays in planning. The NMCP has successfully negotiated the agreement with AMF and has executed it according to plan.
- Digitalizing the campaign at the country level with support from UNDP, Health Information Systems Programme (HISP) and other partners to ensure a sound system for data collection, analysis and use for decision-making.
- Reducing need for technical assistance to key campaign phases (macroplanning and microplanning), demonstrating the strengthened capacity of the NMCP to lead, implement, monitor, and report on key activities and the overall campaign.

The AMP Core Group congratulates Chad and wishes continued success with completing the remaining phases of the ITN campaign and protecting all populations at-risk from malaria.



## DRC National Malaria Control Programme and Soins de santé primaire en milieu rural

The award for using data for decision making honours the memory of Dr. Jorge Alexandre Harrison Arroz, the Technical Manager Malaria Global Fund Project of World Vision Mozambique, whose passion was quality data use to ensure continuous improvements in programme planning and implementation. The AMP Core Group presents this award to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) and Soins de Santé Primaire en Milieu Rurale (SANRU).

The DRC team, despite an extremely challenging context, is distributing tens of millions of nets annually to protect populations at risk in a country with one of the world's highest burdens of malaria. In 2022, the DRC NMCP, SANRU and other partners, including IMA World Health, the Global Fund, and the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative, have continued to accelerate progress against malaria using data for targeting interventions effectively in a heterogeneous landscape. Efforts to improve and sustain ITN access and use include durability monitoring for data to inform ITN replacement, expanding the number of channels for ITN distribution, and piloting the implementation of the activity-based contract (ABC) model for ITN campaigns. Data from the first ABC provincial pilot, which targeted campaign distribution of over 3.5 million ITNs show that the time for implementation was significantly reduced and the percentage of households receiving the correct number of nets significantly increased. Further expansion of the ABC approach should improve the timeliness of future campaigns in the country, as well as more optimal campaign coverage.

The AMP Core Group congratulates the DRC NMCP, SANRU and partners and encourages them to continue to use data for decision-making to ensure sustained ITN access to all populations at-risk.



## **Sudan Federal Ministry of Health and National Malaria Control Programme**

The final AMP award is being presented to a country that was unfortunately unable to travel to the meeting in Nairobi. The AMP Core Group would like to recognize the exceptional efforts of the Sudan Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) in 2022 which, with support from partners such as the Global Fund, the RBM Partnership to End Malaria, UNICEF, and the World Health Organization, led to the establishment of its first National Malaria Control Programme as a standalone programme within the FMOH. Along with the establishment of the NMCP, Sudan also joined the list of WHO's High Burden to High Impact countries and will focus even greater efforts on moving the country towards malaria elimination over the coming years.

In 2022, the Sudan FMOH and NMCP organized the first national campaign in the country, distributing over 18M nets to populations at-risk in all states, including rural Khartoum. The campaign planning and implementation took place in a context of political insecurity and

economic hardship, increasing the risks for a successful implementation and the safety and security of campaign personnel. Despite the numerous hurdles and barriers, the Sudan team rose to the challenge and found ways to ensure a positive campaign outcome. We congratulate the Sudan FMOH and the NMCP on their work with the first national campaign and look forward to the innovations that they will propose in the future to further improve coverage and usage of vector control. We stand ready to support the program and people of Sudan in addressing the challenges that have arisen and their impact on Sudan's fight against malaria.

Our thoughts are with the Sudan FMOH, NMCP and partners during this difficult period in 2023 and we hope to have you with us next year to celebrate your achievements in person.