



DRAFT (18 May 2022)  
75th World Health Assembly:

RBM Partnership to End Malaria Position on Agenda 15: Human resources for health

Delivered by Dr Daddi Wayessa, CRSPC Manager of the RBM Partnership to End Malaria  
(hosted by UNOPS)

President, Honorable Delegates, Director-General,

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria really welcomes this discussion about the human resources for health. The last years of the COVID19 pandemic have shown us how critical health care professionals and volunteers are to protect and save human lives.

I would like to draw your attention specifically to the role of Community Health Workers. These workers are an essential part of the health architecture. They relieve pressure on the central health system and enable the delivery of life-saving malaria services to the last-mile and remote communities who need it most, ensuring that no one is left behind on the road to ending malaria. In the fight against malaria, CHWs are the ones who support communities with rapid diagnostics, treatment and prevention messages. During the COVID19 pandemic, those CHWs were not only ensuring the continuity of essential malaria prevention services but also providing critical information on COVID19 and ensuring that all fevers get diagnosed appropriately.

Over the last 20 years, the Global Fund to Fight against HIV, TB and malaria has supported training for more than two million community health workers to ensure access to malaria services, particularly in hard to reach areas.

Investing in community health workers is instrumental in eliminating malaria, creating more equitable societies, and fighting against other health threats around the world. It yields returns as high as 10:1 when accounting for increased productivity from a healthier population, the avoidance of the high costs of health crises, and the economic impact of increased employment. Greater investment in CHWs will also address critical gender inequality – women make up 70% of the community health workforce that has been instrumental in driving down malaria cases and deaths in remote and rural communities, especially during COVID-19. They serve as the foundation for the fight against malaria and preparedness for future pandemics, yet often their contribution is not fairly recognised and their hard work does not get compensated.

We call you to make an ambitious plan for these CHWs, with appropriate status and financial compensation. By doing so, we will not only strengthen health services which are essential to end malaria, HIV and TB and create a healthier, safer, and more equitable world for all.

Thank you very much.