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CIVIL SOCIETY FOR MALARIA ELIMINATION



GLOBAL NETWORK OF  
YOUNG PEOPLE  
LIVING WITH HIV



# THE CIVIL SOCIETY DECLARATION ON WORLD MALARIA DAY 2026

## Driven to End Malaria: Now We Can. Now We Must Place Communities at the Center !

Malaria is not where it was twenty years ago. Since 2000, the world has prevented more than 2.3 billion malaria cases and 14 million deaths, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). That is not only progress, but also proof. Proof that malaria can be prevented and overcome. Proof that when we act, lives are saved.

And yet in 2024 alone, more than 600,000 people still died, most of whom were African children. Which means this: **progress is fragile**. In the past year, malaria cases increased again, reaching 282 million globally, with Africa bearing 94% of that burden.

Despite this global increase in malaria cases, interventions funded by institutions like The Global Fund have played a crucial role in curbing the spread of the disease. In fact, in countries where The Global Fund invests, malaria deaths have dropped by 28% between 2002 and 2022. [Without these interventions, malaria deaths would have increased by 90% over the same period<sup>1</sup>](#). The Global Fund provides 65% of all international financing for malaria programs and has invested more than US\$17.9 billion in malaria control programs as of June 2023. These investments are making an impact.



<sup>1</sup> Information Note, Malaria Allocation 2023-2025

<sup>2</sup> Yaoundé Declaration for accelerated malaria mortality reduction in Africa

Even more telling is the fact that: The world is three times off track on malaria new cases and deaths, as compared to global targets. A signal that the way we are organizing the response is not keeping pace with the reality on the ground.

At the same time in 2024, African leaders from the 11 high-burden countries made [a commitment to accelerate malaria mortality reduction](#)<sup>2</sup>. They declared that “no one should die from malaria” and pledged to strengthen domestic investment, accountability, and leadership.

We welcome this commitment. However, two years after the signing of the Yaounde Declaration, malaria-affected communities and civil society are not asking to be included. We state a simple truth: there is no path to ending malaria that does not begin and succeed with communities.

## 1. Placing communities first means protecting the cure and staying ahead of resistance

Resistance to malaria drugs is not a future threat; we can see it already happening. If treatment no longer works as expected, everything else becomes harder, more expensive, and less effective. Communities are the first to pay the price. [Protecting the cure](#)<sup>3</sup> means:

- Investing in surveillance systems that reach communities
- Ensuring correct diagnosis and treatment at the last mile
- Accelerating access to next-generation tools
- Listening to early warning signals from the ground

## 2. Placing communities first means increasing domestic investment and accountability

Malaria persists where systems are weakest and where financing is most fragile. And yet, solutions are known. [The Big Push Against Malaria framework](#)<sup>4</sup> identifies key calls:

- Stronger national leadership,
- Coordinated action,
- Data-driven decisions, and
- Sustainable financing through increased budgets for malaria.

**But none of this works without accountability.**

Communities must not only receive services. They must be able to see what was promised, what was funded, what was delivered, and what the impact was.

## 3. Placing communities first means delivering on GC8 (Grant Cycle 8) commitments

Millions of lives have been saved from malaria because countries and partners chose to invest together, thanks to global solidarity. The 8th Global Fund Replenishment confirmed something important: the world still believes this fight can be won.

**Now, the focus must shift to delivery.**

<sup>3</sup> Information Note, Malaria Allocation 2023-2025

<sup>4</sup> Yaoundé Declaration for accelerated malaria mortality reduction in Africa



- Medicines that work
- Nets that are used
- Services that are trusted
- Systems that respond

As countries receive their GC8 allocations, a new phase begins. One where co-financing, domestic ownership, and implementation will determine outcomes. Putting communities first means:

- Ensuring that **GC8 resources are fully mobilized, allocated, disbursed on time, and aligned with community-identified needs**
- Strengthening transparency and accountability mechanisms
- Meaningfully engaging civil society and communities in designing, planning and oversight around all the grant lifecycle
- Prioritizing **interventions and programmes that reach the most vulnerable populations and ensuring a gender-transformative malaria comprehensive response**

### A final call to leadership

We, communities and civil society organizations across countries and regions, stand united in this call.

**We call on governments to:**

**MAKE** malaria visible at the highest political level and not just in technical plans

**PRIORITIZE** malaria comprehensive and gender-transformative response investment in national budgets and policies

**MEET AND EXCEED** the co-financing commitments to strengthen domestic financing and long-term sustainability

**PLACE** communities at the center of all the response implementation

**We call on global partners and donors to:**

**SUSTAIN AND INCREASE** investments in malaria

**SUPPORT** innovation to address resistance

**PROTECT AND STRENGTHEN** multilateral mechanisms like the Global Fund

**We call on all stakeholders to:**

**RECOGNIZE** communities as equal partners

**INVEST** in their leadership development, capacity, and voice

**ENSURE** that no one is left behind

We have the tools.

We have the knowledge.

We have the evidence of what works.

**NOW WE CAN. NOW WE MUST!**

