



MEDIA RELEASE

Less Talk and more Action – The Road to Malaria Free Southern Africa

The Southern African Development Community (SADC), is geared towards scaling up malaria control interventions during the organisation's malaria campaign week aimed at reducing the number of people suffering and dying from the disease in line with the Abuja targets.

With the slogan, “**Less talk and more action – The Road to a Malaria Free Southern Africa**”, the campaign will be held from 9-14 November, 2004 coinciding with the start of the Malaria transmission season in the SADC region.

During the SADC Malaria campaign week, activities will focus on mass mobilization of all Roll Back Malaria Partners to support the procurement and delivery of mosquito nets, re-treatment kits and insecticides to communities.

The main tools for Rolling Back Malaria include strengthening of the health systems and improvement; mobilization and empowerment of communities mostly affected by malaria to take action and improve their own situation and partnerships through the involvement of governments; developmental agencies; civil society and the private sector.

The theme for this year is “**Timely delivery of Malaria Control Interventions – Towards Abuja 2005 and Beyond 2005**”. This theme is in line with the targets set by the African Heads of State and Government during the African Summit on Roll Back Malaria, which was held in Abuja, Nigeria on 25 April, 2000. They agreed on three major targets by the year 2005 as follows:

- At least 60% of those suffering from malaria have prompt access to affordable and effective appropriate treatment within 24 Hours;
- At least 60% of those at risk of malaria particularly pregnant women and children under five years of age, benefit from insecticides treated nets and other interventions that are accessible to prevent malaria; and
- At least 60% of all pregnant women who are at risk of malaria have access to chemoprophylaxis treatment or preventive treatment.

The Abuja Declaration is also aimed at halving the malaria morbidity and mortality by the year 2010.

SADC countries are making remarkable progress in malaria prevention control with more effort needed to scale up coverage and delivery of malaria interventions.

In the SADC region, more than 21 million people suffer from Malaria every year with about 250 000 to 300 000 dying from the disease every year.

SADC Corporate Communications Unit

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Gaborone, Botswana