

2015 ALMA Awards for Excellence

**31st January, 2015
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

Twelve countries are receiving a 2015 African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) Award for Excellence. These awardees are chosen by an independent selection committee representing the World Health Organization (WHO), Roll Back Malaria (RBM), the private sector, civil society and academia. The selection is based upon the data collected by RBM Partners and reflected in the ALMA Scorecard for Accountability and Action and country quarterly reports.

Seven African countries are the recipients of the 2015 ALMA Award for Excellence in Implementation of Vector Control for maintaining 95% coverage or above of vector control (Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets and/or Indoor Residual Spraying) for each quarter in 2014. Four African countries are recipients of the 2015 ALMA Award for Excellence for Most Improved in Malaria Control for showing the most positive change in malaria indicators throughout 2014. And one African country is the recipient of the 2015 ALMA Award for Excellence in Innovation for championing the Reproductive, Maternal, New Born and Child Health (RMNCH) Scorecards which have been rolled out in 18 countries to date.

**2015 ALMA Award for Excellence in Implementation of Vector Control:
Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, The Gambia**

**2015 ALMA Award for Excellence for Most Improved in Malaria Control:
Burundi, Central African Republic, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Togo**

**2015 ALMA Award for Excellence in Innovation:
Ethiopia**

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2015 ALMA Awards for Excellence for their significant contribution in the fight against malaria and for promoting accountability and action in maternal and child health.

As a result of this significant scaling-up of malaria control interventions, an estimated 3.9 million child deaths have been averted in Africa since 2000, which represents a 54% reduction in malaria mortality. This is an unprecedented success for Africa and accounts for 20% of the 20 million child deaths that are estimated to have been averted in sub-Saharan Africa since 2000. Thus, decreases in malaria deaths have contributed substantially to progress towards achieving the target for MDG4 of reducing the under-five mortality rate between 1990 and 2015 by two-thirds. This remarkable progress is the result of consistent implementation of vector control, rapid diagnosis, early treatment, and surveillance interventions by countries and partners. In 2014, we saw more LLINs distributed than ever before with 190 million LLINs delivered to Africa, approximately 44 million more than ever before. This also reflects the efficiency of the

global forecast and bulk tendering process launched in 2013. Additionally, last month saw the delivery of the one billionth mosquito net since 2004.

We are also well placed to build on this success in 2015. At the end of 2014, forty-one Global Fund New Funding Model malaria concept notes have been submitted to the Global Fund, including twenty-five from Africa. Another nine countries in Africa are working on their concept notes for submission in early 2015. At the end of 2014, malaria concept notes worth US\$2.9 billion were submitted to the Global Fund and will likely increase to US\$3.5 billion by the end of January 2015. All but two of the concept notes from countries in Africa have moved into the grant-making stage, representing a success rate of 92%. Additionally ALMA member countries have allocated sufficient resources from their overall Global Fund country allocation to malaria control commensurate with the size of their malaria burden. We are currently on track to achieve a 67% reduction in malaria mortality by the end of 2015.

As we move towards the malaria elimination agenda it is imperative that we do not lose sight of malaria control, and achieving and sustaining universal coverage of effective interventions.