



KENYA MALARIA POLICY



Ministry of Health National Malaria Control Programme





Kenya Malaria Policy 2024



Ministry of Health National Malaria Control Programme Second Edition | April 2024



Policy 200

Any part of this document may be freely quoted, reproduced or translated in full or in part, provided the source is acknowledged. It may not be sold or used in conjunction with commercial purposes or for profit.

Kenya Malaria Policy 2024

Published by: Ministry of Health

National Malaria Control Programme

P. 0. Box 19982, 00202, KNH

Nairobi, Kenya

Email: ps.publichealth@health.go.ke

Foreword

alaria is a significant health problem in Africa, and in Kenya, approximately six million cases are reported annually, with 70% of the population at risk of the disease. It also has negative effects on socio-economic growth of households and the nation through loss of work, school absenteeism, and high out-of- pocket expenditure for treatment of malaria, especially by poor households.

This policy outlines the guiding principles for malaria control and elimination in the country and gives directions regarding malaria strategies, interventions, and tools. The policy directions embrace the government's agenda on universal health coverage and achievement of the health sustainable development goals toward the global call for malaria elimination. It demonstrates the overall commitment to equity, human rights, and gender with emphasis on inclusive community participation and access to malaria services for all populations. The policy is cognizant of the need for innovation and new tools in delivering health services.

I recommend that all partners and stakeholders focus their efforts on executing the policy directions to achieve our goal of reducing the burden of malaria on the path to realising our vision of a malaria-free Kenya.







Preface

enya aims to have a malaria-free status and mitigate the socioeconomic burden of the disease in the country. The malaria policy will guide health workers and all partners involved in planning, resource mobilisation, and implementing malaria control and elimination strategies in Kenya.

This updated policy incorporates the changes that have taken place in the country, including the transition to a devolved system of governance in 2013 and updates in malaria interventions—such as the World Health Organization's (WHO) approval of malaria vaccines and new formulations for insecticide-treated nets—which have been adopted in Kenya in recent years.

The policy update was done in conjunction with the end-term review of the Kenya Malaria Strategy 2019-2023.

The results of the malaria strategy end-term review, the Kenya Malaria Indicator Survey (2020), the updated Kenya Malaria Risk Map, the Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016-2030 (2021 update), and WHO Guidelines for Malaria (16 October 2023) were key information sources for the policy update. This policy aligns with the Kenya Health Policy (2014-2030) and WHO Global Malaria Frameworks and will, therefore, be reviewed if there is a significant shift in malaria eco-epidemiological and entomological landscape at the country or global level.



Ms. Mary Muthoni Muriuki, CBS, HSC
Principal Secretary - Public Health and Professional Standards
Ministry of Health

Acknowledgement

evelopment of the updated Kenya Malaria Policy involved a multistakeholder consultative and participatory process with contributions from county, national, and international partners.

The Ministry of Health is indebted to the individuals and organisations involved in the review of the National Malaria Policy 2010 and development of this updated policy document.

We greatly appreciate the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) for their financial support as well as insightful technical contributions.

We recognize the valued technical assistance during the development of the policy document, and insightful contributions of reviewers from WHO Africa Regional Office, WHO Country Office, and the RBM Partnership to End Malaria.

Our heartfelt appreciation to staff from the national Government entities, representatives from the County Departments of Health, PMI implementing partners, the Pan-African Mosquito Control Association, Mount Kenya University, and Amref Health Africa in Kenya who participated in the policy review and development meetings. The draft policy statements were shared with representatives of the Council of Governors.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the dedicated staff of the National Malaria Control Programme for their unwavering commitment, exceptional leadership, and invaluable contributions to our efforts in combating malaria. Your hard work and dedication have been instrumental in advancing our progress.

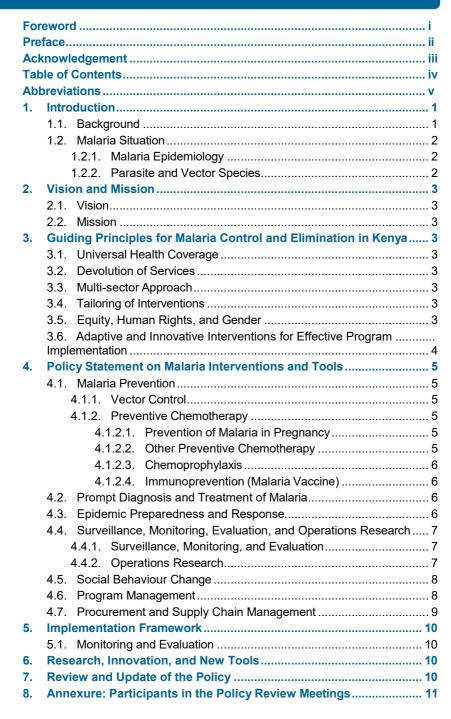
Dr. Patrick Amoth, EBS

Director General for Health

mofescalo

Ministry of Health

Table of Contents





Abbreviations

EPR Epidemic Preparedness and Response

FELTP Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programme

GoK Government of Kenya

IPTp Intermittent Preventive Treatment in Pregnancy

KMIS Kenya Malaria Indicator Survey

KNBS Kenya National Bureau of Statistics

MOH Ministry of Health

MPR Malaria Programme Review

NMCP National Malaria Control Programme

PMI U.S. President's Malaria Initiative

PSM Procurement and Supply Management

SBC Social Behaviour Change

SME Surveillance, Monitoring, and Evaluation

UHC Universal Health Coverage

WHO World Health Organization

Introduction



The 2024 National Malaria Policy is an update of the 2010 National Malaria Policy, and it reflects the current healthcare delivery structure in Kenya and updated recommendations from the World Health Organization (WHO). The policy development was also informed by the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis guidelines.¹

The Republic of Kenya covers a total area of 582,646 square kilometres,

bordered by Ethiopia to the north, South Sudan to the northwest, Uganda to the West, Tanzania to the South, and Somalia to the East. Administratively, Kenya is divided into 47 counties and subdivided into 314 sub-counties as of 2024. Kenya is home to people of diverse cultures, including more than 42 ethnic groups with many languages and dialects. Kenya's population was estimated to be about 47.5 million in 2019, and the latest projections indicate that it is currently 51.5 million. According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), 17% of the Kenyan population are children under five years of age, while 25% are women aged 15–49 years. The under-five mortality rate has declined over the years; by 2022, it was 41 deaths per 1,000

Kenya's overall development framework is guided by the Kenya Vision 2030, a long-term policy aiming to create a "globally competitive and prosperous country with a high quality of life by 2030." Furthermore, the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda is a strategic approach adopted by the Kenyan government, with a health thematic area that seeks to promote access to quality and affordable healthcare for the country's socio-economic development. These and other government policies support Universal Health Coverage (UHC) that contributes to having a country free of malaria.

Justification/Rationale for an Updated Malaria Policy

live births (Kenya Demographic and Health Survey 2022).2

Updating of the Malaria Policy has been informed by several changes, such as modifications in the delivery of health services due to the devolved government and separation of functions; health legislation changes (Health Act 2017 and others); new health initiatives; universal health care and health financing, e.g. Social Health Insurance Fund; a changing malaria epidemiology and entomology landscape; emerging biological and other threats; new tools (vaccines, insecticide-impregnated mosquito nets, preventive chemotherapies); and a global call to innovate (digital, tools, approaches). The government has also prioritised key health agenda items to accelerate UHC and achieve the sustainable development goals to improve health outcomes and ensure better access to healthcare for its citizens.



¹ Guidelines for Public Policy Development and Review. 2020. Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis. Nairobi, Kenya.

² KNBS and ICF. 2023. Kenya Demographic and Health Survey 2022. Nairobi, Kenya and Rockville, Maryland, USA: KNBS and ICF.

³ The Parliamentary Budget Office. Operationalizing the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda - Budget Watch for FY 2023/24 and the Medium Term.



This document provides a policy framework to guide malaria control and elimination programme and implementation of activities in Kenya. The policy will be operationalised through relevant regulations, strategic documents, and guidelines to fulfil the vision of a 'malaria free Kenya'.

1.2. Malaria Situation

1.2.1 Malaria Epidemiology

Malaria remains a significant cause of morbidity and mortality in Kenya, with more than 70% of the population at risk of malaria. Malaria is heterogeneous in the country, and in 2020, a malaria infection prevalence mapping classified the counties into five stable endemicity areas: very low transmission, low transmission, low-moderate transmission, moderate transmission, and high transmission. Nairobi was classified as malaria-free based on data and historical evaluation of the malaria situation in the county.5 The 2020 Kenya Malaria Indicator Survey (KMIS) showed that children, pregnant women, and non-immune individuals are disproportionately affected. For example, there were variations in malaria parasite prevalence across the eco-epidemiological zones of the country among children under five years of age: 17% in endemic areas, 1.4% in areas of seasonal malaria transmission (arid and semi-arid lowlands), 1% in epidemic-prone regions, and 0.4% in low-risk transmission areas. The prevalence of malaria dropped slightly from 8% to 5.6% between 2015 and 2020.6 However, the Malaria Programme Review (MPR) of the 2019-2023 Kenya Malaria Strategy showed a worrying trend of increasing malaria incidence since 2020, and outbreaks have been reported in the low transmission settings in northern Kenya and the highland areas of Kericho.

1.2.2 Parasite and Vector Species

Four common species of Plasmodium cause malaria in Kenya: *Plasmodium falciparum*, *Plasmodium malariae*, *Plasmodium ovale*, and *Plasmodium vivax*. The KMIS 2020 findings demonstrated that *P. falciparum* accounts for 76% of all infections, while *P. malariae* and *P. ovale* account for 4% and 1%, respectively, and mixed infections of *P. falciparum* and *P. malariae* account for 19%. *P. vivax* has recently been reported in sick patients with malaria in the northern parts of the country. The main malaria vectors reported countrywide include *Anopheles gambiae s.s.*, *Anopheles arabiensis*, *Anopheles funestus s.s.*, and *Anopheles merus*. A new invasive malaria vector, *An. stephensi*, was detected in the country in 2022, posing a threat to malaria control, especially in urban areas.

⁴ Division of National Malaria Programme (DNMP) [Kenya] and ICF. 2021. Kenya Malaria Indicator Survey 2020. Nairobi, Kenya and Rockville, Maryland, USA: DNMP and ICF.

⁵ Alegana et al. 2021. Malaria Infection Prevalence Mapping in Kenya in 2020. Nairobi, Kenya. Division of National Malaria Programme, Ministry of Health, ICF, PMI Measure Malaria, and KEMRI-Welcome Trust-University of Oxford-Research Programme.

⁶ Division of National Malaria Programme (DNMP) [Kenya] and ICF. 2021. Kenya Malaria Indicator Survey 2020. Nairobi, Kenya and Rockville, Maryland, USA: DNMP and ICF.

Vision and Mission



A malaria-free Kenya

2.2 Mission

To provide a framework to guide the achievement of a malaria-free Kenya by fostering inclusive, collaborative, coordinated actions and partnerships at all levels in keeping with national/international norms and standards.

Guiding Principles for Malaria Control and Elimination in Kenya

3.1. Universal Health Coverage

This policy aligns with the government's agenda on access to quality and affordable healthcare services for all. In keeping with the UHC agenda, the policy aims to ensure appropriate malaria services are delivered through all healthcare levels, including at the household level through community health structures.

3.2. Devolution of Health Services

This policy aligns with the constitutional mandates for delivering health services in a devolved system as defined in the 4th schedule of the 2010 Constitution of Kenya.

3.3. Multi-sectoral Approach

This policy is anchored on a coordinated multi-sectoral approach to malaria control and elimination, requiring all stakeholders' proactive inclusion and participation.

3.4. Tailoring of Interventions

Malaria interventions will be targeted based on the prevailing information and data on transmission settings to achieve the right mix of interventions for optimal impact.

3.5. Equity, Human Rights, and Gender

The policy is aligned with the equity, human rights, and gender principles that anchor the delivery of health services that adopt a people-centred approach, emphasising inclusive community participation in the planning, implementing, and monitoring of health services while ensuring that the needs of special and vulnerable populations are incorporated.





3.6. Adaptive and Innovative Tools, Approaches, and Strategies/Interventions for Effective Program Implementation

This policy acknowledges the continuous evolution of innovation, tools, and technology and makes provisions for adopting and deploying new technologies and tools, including novel digital tools, as they become available.



Preamble

Prevention is critical for reducing disease burden and eventual elimination of malaria. It reduces disease incidence and transmission, with the ultimate goal of completely interrupting transmission. Malaria prevention can target the vector (vector control) or the parasites in selected high-risk groups (preventive chemotherapy and vaccines). The main aim of vector control is to reduce the capacity of the vectors to transmit malaria. In contrast, preventive chemotherapies aim at preventing infected individuals from developing the disease with its attendant morbidities. While vector control interventions target all areas of malaria transmission, the high-risk groups targeted by preventive chemotherapy and vaccines include pregnant women, children, non-immune individuals visiting malaria-endemic regions, and people with immunosuppressive conditions.

4.1.1. Vector Control

Policy Statement

The Government of Kenya (GoK) will ensure:

- Equitable access to effective malaria vector control interventions appropriate to each transmission setting.
- Surveillance is conducted for vector bionomics, vector behaviour, susceptibility, and monitoring of vector control tools to ensure their effectiveness.
- Participation in strategic cross-border malaria control and elimination initiatives

4.1.2. Preventive Chemotherapy

4.1.2.1 Prevention of Malaria in Pregnancy

Policy Statement

The GoK will ensure:

 All pregnant women living in areas of moderate to high malaria transmission receive intermittent preventive treatment of malaria in pregnancy (IPTp) as part of antenatal care services.

4.1.2.2 Chemoprevention

Policy Statement

The GoK will ensure:

 Appropriate antimalarial medicines, either alone or in combination, are given to defined vulnerable populations (based on local data evidence and context information) to prevent malaria infection. The preventive chemotherapies include seasonal malaria chemoprevention, perennial malaria chemoprevention, post-discharge malaria chemoprevention,





intermittent preventive treatment of malaria in infants and school children, and mass drug administration.

4.1.2.3 Chemoprophylaxis

Policy Statement

The GoK recommends:

 Appropriate malaria chemoprophylaxis is given to non-immune persons visiting malaria-endemic areas.

4.1.2.4 Immunoprevention

Policy Statement

The GoK will ensure:

• Equitable access to malaria vaccines to all eligible populations.

4.2. Diagnosis and Treatment of Malaria

Preamble

Access to the highest quality of care is critical to reducing morbidity and preventing deaths. Rapid malaria diagnosis, with prompt, effective treatment, is delivered through all healthcare sectors, including public, faith-based, private, and community service channels. Community health services leverage the primary health care system, which is pivotal in attaining UHC.

Policy Statement

The GoK will ensure:

- Equitable access to quality diagnosis and effective treatment at all levels of the healthcare system.
- An enabling environment for the provision of community-based malaria services.
- The effectiveness of case management through surveillance for therapeutic efficacy, resistance monitoring, pharmacovigilance, and malaria diagnostics.

4.3. Epidemic Preparedness and Response

Preamble

Several factors, including climate change, may alter transmission patterns and increase the risk of epidemics. Malaria epidemic preparedness and response (EPR) is a disease surveillance and response priority. Prediction, prevention, and timely response to malaria outbreaks, particularly in epidemic-prone areas, are vital to the reduction of malaria morbidity and mortality.

Policy Statement

The GoK will ensure:

- Counties prone to malaria epidemics have adequate early warning and detection systems that are part of a routine Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response System.
- Availability of and access to emergency resources for timely response to malaria outbreaks exist.

4.4. Surveillance, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Operations Research

4.4.1. Surveillance, Monitoring, and Evaluation

Preamble

Effective surveillance, monitoring, and evaluation (SME) of the national malaria programme activities remains essential for providing data for assessing malaria trends as well as stratification and targeting of control or elimination interventions—thus informing strategies and resource allocation. Surveillance shall aim to support disease control and elimination per the transmission settings; hence, SME will continue to be a core strategy to guide malaria control and elimination programming in Kenya.

Policy Statement

The GoK will ensure:

- A national SME plan guides malaria SME, and adequate resources are committed for its implementation.
- SME will be undertaken at the national, county, subcounty, health facility, and community levels.
- Regular evidence-based stratification informs the targeting of interventions.
- Surveillance approaches are implemented based on the appropriate malaria transmission setting recommendations.
- Routine malaria inpatient and outpatient data from all public, faith-based, and private healthcare providers is mainstreamed into the National Health Information Systems.

4.4.2. Operations Research

Preamble

Operational research is vital for context adaptation of strategies and tools leading to improved malaria programming, policies, guidelines, and approaches.

Policy Statement

The GoK will ensure:

 The relevant capacity (institutional, human, and financial) to strengthen research is prioritised.





 There is an effective framework for engagement with relevant entities to make available research findings and mainstream evidence generated into malaria control policies and guidelines.

4.5. Social Behaviour Change

Preamble

Sustained and effective social behaviour change (SBC) interventions are vital for achieving optimal uptake of malaria interventions and combating the disease. SBC recognises the multifaceted factors influencing behaviours beyond mere knowledge. By engaging communities through education campaigns and peer influence programs, stakeholders can address misconceptions, overcome barriers, and promote consistent use of malaria prevention and elimination interventions. Empowering individuals and communities foster sustainable practices and responsibility for health outcomes, thereby reducing malaria transmission and improving resilience to future health challenges.

Policy Statement

The GoK will ensure:

- Commitment to establishing robust systems to achieve universal access to appropriate, accurate, and culturally acceptable information about malaria prevention, control, and elimination, in line with the overarching principles outlined in the Kenya Malaria Policy.
- SBC strategies are customised to effectively address the diverse communication and behavioural change needs and preferences of communities across the country, thereby enhancing the efficacy of malaria control and elimination efforts.
- There is adequate investment for malaria social behaviour change.

4.6. Program Management

Preamble

Achieving a malaria-free Kenya requires a coordinated multi-sectoral approach, optimal implementation capacity, sustainable financing, and continued advocacy in keeping with the shared roles, responsibilities, and distribution of functions outlined in Schedule 4 of the 2010 Constitution of Kenya.

Policy Statement

The GoK will ensure that:

- There is a government-led, effective, inclusive, structured, and accountable partnership for coordinating malaria control and elimination.
- There will be adequate resources for managing and implementing malaria control and elimination, including human capacity.

- There is adequate financing at all levels and sectors efficiently used for malaria control and elimination.
- Malaria control and elimination are a prioritised agenda at all levels and across all sectors.
- There is harmonization of cross-border malaria control and elimination approaches.

4.7. Procurement and Supply Chain Management

Preamble

UHC entails health services being equitable, available, and affordable to all. Access to tools and technologies for health to the last mile is critical to assuring UHC. Universal access to quality-assured malaria commodities depends on a functional procurement and supply chain management system. This allows for timely availability of the tools where and when required—avoiding stockouts and wastage.

Policy Statement

The GoK will ensure:

 There is timely and affordable access to quality-assured malaria commodities and technologies for the end-user.





Implementation Framework

The policy will be articulated through the Kenya Malaria Strategy which defines time-bound (five-year) goals, objectives, and targets, along with detailing the appropriate populations, strategies, interventions, and tools in line with this policy to achieve the desired goals in the defined timeframe. The development and implementation of the strategic plan will be an inclusive process led by the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP), with joint / shared responsibility of the national and county governments and partners.

5.1. Monitoring and Evaluation

The national malaria policy will be monitored through the periodic review of the Kenya Malaria Strategy based on a monitoring and evaluation plan, which defines indicators and methods for assessing the progress of malaria control and elimination in the country.

Research, Innovation, and New Tools

The malaria policy recognises the pivotal role of research and innovation in addressing emerging challenges from biological threats such as new vectors and parasites, pandemics, disasters, and climate change. This policy will promote the use of existing tools and the development and deployment of new tools and innovations, including digital solutions. The government will ensure an enabling environment for research and innovation.

Review and Update of the Policy

This policy aligns with the Kenya Health Policy and WHO Global Malaria Frameworks. It will, therefore, be reviewed if there is a significant shift in the malaria eco-epidemiological and entomological landscape at the country and global levels to the extent that it affects Kenya or the region.

Annexure: Participants in the Policy Review Meetings

| Name | Organisation | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Abubakar Mohamed | Ministry of Health | | |
| Andrew Wamari | Ministry of Health | | |
| Beatrice Machini | Ministry of Health | | |
| Beatrice Musyoka | Ministry of Health | | |
| Branice Kisali | Ministry of Health | | |
| Brigid Ahinduka | Ministry of Health | | |
| Catherine Kilonzo | Ministry of Health | | |
| Christine Wayua | Ministry of Health | | |
| Collins Omondi Angute | Ministry of Health | | |
| Diana Rose Wangari Mwaura | Ministry of Health | | |
| Edith Ramaita | Ministry of Health | | |
| Emma Nyandigisi | Ministry of Health | | |
| Gladys Mberia | Ministry of Health | | |
| Hillary Onsongo | Ministry of Health | | |
| Ishamael Abbey | Ministry of Health | | |
| James Sang' | Ministry of Health | | |
| James Kiarie | Ministry of Health | | |
| John Kabuagi | Ministry of Health | | |
| Joy Gakenia | Ministry of Health | | |
| Karen Okutoyi | Ministry of Health | | |
| Kibor Keitany | Ministry of Health | | |
| Magzon Bett | Ministry of Health | | |
| Murima Ng'ang'a | Ministry of Health | | |
| Patrick Mburugu | Ministry of Health | | |
| Paul Kiptoo | Ministry of Health | | |
| Paul Rumosia | Ministry of Health | | |
| Peter Njiru | Ministry of Health | | |
| Regina Kandie | Ministry of Health | | |
| Robert Mwaura | Ministry of Health | | |
| Sammy Mahugu | Ministry of Health | | |
| Stephen Aricha | Ministry of Health | | |
| Wachira Muguku | Ministry of Health | | |
| Welby Chimwami | Ministry of Health | | |
| Edwin Onyango | Department of Health, Busia County | | |
| Hellen Irahuya | Department of Health, Vihiga County | | |

| Name | Organisation | | |
|-----------------|---|--|--|
| Hillary Chebon | Department of Community Health Services, MOH | | |
| Kairo Kimende | Department of Health, Murang'a County | | |
| Kigen Hudson | Department of Health, Kericho County | | |
| Martin Osotsi | Department of Health, Vihiga County | | |
| Nixon Morara | Department of Health, Kisii County | | |
| Patrick Ndung'u | Department of Health, Nyandarua County | | |
| Pauline Ngigi | Department of Health, Murang'a County | | |
| Richard Onkware | Department of Health, Kisii County | | |
| Sammy Koech | Department of Health, Kericho County | | |
| Anthony Miru | The National Treasury | | |
| William Decker | African Leaders Malaria Alliance | | |
| Anne Kerubo | Amref Health Africa in Kenya | | |
| Francis Onditi | Amref Health Africa in Kenya | | |
| Anya Cushnie | Country Health Information Systems and Data Use Program (CHISU) | | |
| Eunice Misiani | Consultant (CHISU) | | |
| George Wadegu | CHISU | | |
| Hellen Gatakaa | CHISU | | |
| Jane Githuku | CHISU | | |
| Agneta Mbithi | ICF Kenya | | |
| Joan Wachuka | Kenya Medical Supplies Authority | | |
| Edward Mwangi | Kenya NGO Alliance Against Malaria | | |
| Jesse Gitaka | Mount Kenya University | | |
| Ruth Wanjala | U.S. Agency for International Development-MRITE | | |
| Vicky Maiyo | U.S. Agency for International Development-MRITE | | |

| Name | Organisation | | |
|----------------------------|---|--|--|
| Damaris Matoke | Pan-African Mosquito Control Association | | |
| Francis Mutuku | Pan-African Mosquito Control Association | | |
| Charles Mbogo | Pan-African Mosquito Control Association | | |
| Joshua Limo | Population Services Kenya | | |
| James Mwangi | PMI-funded Afya Ugavi | | |
| Meera Shah | PMI-funded Afya Ugavi | | |
| Jeremiah Ochieng | PMI-funded Breakthrough Action | | |
| Edward Abwao | PMI-funded PQM+ | | |
| Sheila Ogoma | PMI Kinga Malaria | | |
| Rodaly Muthoni | PMI Kinga Malaria | | |
| Lilian Mageto | PMI-PROPEL Health | | |
| Theresa Watwii Ndavi | PMI-PROPEL Health | | |
| Megumi Itoh | PMI | | |
| Mildred Shieshia | PMI | | |
| Victor .Sumbi | PMI | | |
| Daudi Ochieng | RBM Partnership to End Malaria | | |
| Dennis Walusimbi | RBM Partnership to End Malaria | | |
| Dorothy Achu | RBM Partnership to End Malaria | | |
| Kaka Mudambo | RBM Partnership to End Malaria | | |
| Baba Ebenezer | WHO | | |
| Felicia Owusu-Antwi | WHO | | |
| Fiona Omoniwa Owunwumi | WHO | | |
| Jackson Sillah | WHO | | |
| James Dan Otieno | WHO | | |
| Kharchi Tfeil Abderrahmane | WHO | | |
| Michael Kayange | WHO | | |
| Onyeze Adiele | WHO | | |
| Peter Olumese | WHO | | |



