



KIGALI SUMMIT

ON MALARIA AND NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES (NTDs)

BACKGROUND TO THE KIGALI SUMMIT ON MALARIA AND NTDS

Taking place alongside the 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) and hosted by the Government of the Republic of Rwanda, the Kigali Summit on Malaria and NTDs will reaffirm commitments to end malaria and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). In doing so, it will recognise the critical importance of investing in the fight against these diseases for developing more resilient health systems, improving the response to future pandemics and supporting healthier populations.

In recent years, the Commonwealth has committed to act against these preventable and treatable diseases. In 2018 leaders committed to 'halve malaria across the Commonwealth by 2023', eliminate 'blinding trachoma by 2020', and combat 'other mosquito-borne diseases'. The 2022 summit will enable the Commonwealth to review the progress made since the 2018 commitment.

Despite significant gains in the first decades of the century, malaria and NTDs continue to pose risks of death and life-changing illness to an enormous proportion of the world's population. In 2019 alone, half of humanity was at risk of malaria, whilst over 1.7 billion people were affected by the group of 20 diseases collectively known as NTDs. In recent years, progress against malaria had begun to plateau as investment stalled, and for NTDs, investments have historically been low. For both diseases, the COVID-19 pandemic has put future gains at risk, and is threatening recent progress. The summit will be a vital moment for leaders to show how we can get back on track to deliver the promise to end these diseases.

Malaria and NTD programmes have been at the forefront of the pandemic response. The trusted community-based platforms that these programmes have built and supported over the years have been repurposed to respond to COVID-19. Beyond their value for testing and diagnosis, they can be used to support the delivery of treatments, such as vaccines, to ensure they are accessible to all.

As Rwanda takes the Commonwealth Chair-In-Office and hosts CHOGM, the summit will be a historic opportunity to show the world how malaria and NTD programmes unlock the potential of countries to build a safer world for everyone everywhere. The summit will be a pivotal moment for the global community to recognise how progress against these diseases has strengthened health systems and how future investments can support long-term sustainable pandemic preparedness. The summit will also serve as an important call-to-action for implementing countries, donors, the private sector, civil society, and other key stakeholders to commit the resources necessary to drive down the burden of these diseases.

WHAT THE SUMMIT WILL ACHIEVE

The Kigali Summit will be an historic moment convening Heads of State and Government, CEOs, philanthropists, scientific experts, global institutions, celebrities, and community champions, to bring united global attention to malaria and NTDs in the time of COVID-19. Guided by His Excellency President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, the Summit will:

- Showcase how malaria and NTD programmes have strengthened community-based systems that have been and can be used to respond to COVID-19 and future health crisis.
- Share learning on how to deliver malaria and NTD programming whilst responding to COVID-19, and drive good practice to maximise 'win-win' investments that can build more resilient health systems.
- Mobilize and profile vital donor government commitments to the fight against malaria and NTDs, including Heads of State and government-level leadership and investment.
- Recognize and incentivise the leadership of endemic countries by showcasing action taken to fight malaria and NTDs, particularly around new innovations, building stronger front line health systems and regional cooperation.
- Provide national leaders with a platform to announce their focus on malaria beyond the existing commitment in 2023, in order to achieve regional and global targets for 2030 across the Commonwealth.
- Provide a platform to sign the Kigali Declaration on NTDs which is country-led and owned. Provide national leaders with a platform to announce commitments towards NTDs in order to reach the 2030 global targets and achieve the [2030 WHO NTD Roadmap on NTDs](#).

HOW THE SUMMIT WILL BE DELIVERED

Taking place at the state-of-the-art Intare Conference Arena in Kigali, the Summit will be structured over two sessions. The summit will be focused around driving commitments to achieve further progress, guided by the overarching theme of "Unlock the potential: Ending malaria and NTDs to build a safer world".

Session one in the morning and early afternoon will deliver commitments and announcements to accelerate progress to reduce and eliminate malaria and NTDs, and demonstrate how investments to fight these diseases can build more resilient health systems. Participants will be engaged through a series of thematic sessions on:

- **Integration:** Securing political support for integration of malaria and NTD programmes within each other's programmes, the broader health sector as part of strengthening health systems and into appropriate cross-sectoral programmes and vice versa.
- **Innovation and new tools:** Rolling out and scaling up new interventions/tools that will accelerate disease reduction. This will include diagnostics, therapeutics, vaccines, data and surveillance systems, and public health interventions
- **Health financing:** Secure commitments to maintain existing funding whilst exploring additional ways to increase further funding, including from domestic, donor, philanthropic and private sources.
- **Regional coordination for disease control and elimination:** Securing commitments for political and financial support for regional initiatives to enable better coordination among countries, sharing of information and harmonisation of cross-border interventions that are vital against future pandemics.

Session two in the mid-afternoon will be attended by Heads of State and Government for the high-level closing section of the Summit. During the session, the outcomes and commitments of the morning sessions will be presented for endorsement and commitment by attending Heads of State and Government. High level speakers will focus on the importance of continued investments in health systems, including through malaria and NTD programming, required for a holistic and comprehensive approach to all epidemics.

BRINGING KIGALI TO A GLOBAL AUDIENCE

The Summit will be preceded by a powerful global communications campaign to build awareness of the event and its objectives.

The event itself will be a celebration of innovation, partnership, and bold thinking to inspire action. Working with globally renowned creatives, the summit will involve a dynamic and energising live event alongside an interactive and immersive digital experience designed to maximise the online reach. This will help draw people in from around the world behind the highly topical message of how to prevent future pandemics through action to tackle existing diseases.

