

**Statement to the 136th Session of the WHO Executive Board
on agenda item 9.1 Malaria: draft global technical strategy: post 2015**

Thank you, Chair, for giving me the opportunity of addressing the distinguished Members of the Executive Board on behalf of Medicus Mundi International and the People's Health Movement.

According to us, the new strategy focuses too much on vertical programmes such as vector control, chemoprevention, diagnosis and treatment. Even though WHO realized decades ago that those vertical programs have big shortcomings. Therefore, it is problematic that Health system strengthening is missing in this vision. Effective primary health care services with strong community involvement are critical in diagnosis, treatment and local action for vector control, while vertical programs are not well placed to support the development of comprehensive PHC. In fact vertical disease focused programs jeopardise PHC development by fragmenting management and competing for human resources. Stand-alone vertical programs also weaken disaster preparedness.

The poor and rural communities are disproportionately affected by Malaria. However, the scope for integrating broad based development strategies into malaria control programs is quite restricted given the vertical structure of the RBM program. The concept of addressing the social determination of malaria morbidity and mortality does not figure in the policy documents of either the GMP or the RBM.

The links between vector control and land use planning, housing development, urban infrastructure and rural development are also well known.

Unfortunately integrated vector management which might address land use planning, housing, urban infrastructure and rural development does not play a very prominent role in either WHO's GMP or the RBM program. Reliance on vector control, in the absence of social, economic and infrastructure development, risks creating ecological space for alternative infective agents or vectors. The magnitude of this risk is not clear but such risks need to be adequately explored in the context of malaria control.

Thank you.

The statement will be delivered by Salome Adam