

MWELE MALECELA MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

MAY 2023

Issue 2

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT



**The Mwele Malecela Mentorship Program WHO
Regional Office for Africa**

INTRODUCTION

We welcome you to the second edition of the Mwele Malecela Mentorship (MMM) program report. We are excited to share with you the updates and achievements made since our last report in February. With its unique and innovative gender-intentional approach, this mentorship program aims to increase gender equality in representation and leadership by developing and supporting mid-career African women to become leaders and champions in NTD elimination at national and international levels. We have continued to work towards a timely and successful launch of the first cohort of the MMM program and are pleased to share some notable updates realized within this framework.

PROGRAM DESIGN AND SELECTION OF MENTEE AND MENTORS

The program's design and selection involve outlining the objectives, setting criteria of selection of mentees and mentors and designing tools to ensure resources are made available for mentees and mentors, and that mentees are paired with the most suitable mentors so they can optimize the benefits of the program. In this area, the following accomplishments were achieved:

📌 **Stage-2 Request for Application (RFA) Form Launched and Applications Closed.** The Stage-2 application form was launched on March 30th, and 117 applicants were invited to complete the second phase of the application process. In this process, shortlisted candidates provide further information about their qualifications, experience and commitment to the program, which will allow the Selection Committee and the Steering Committee to determine the candidates who are the most suitable for the program. The Request for Application of the Stage 2 closed on April 9, 2023, at 11:59 GMT +1, and we were pleased to note the high-level of engagement recorded by the shortlisted applicants.

📌 **The application for mentors RE-OPENED.** The Mentor Application Form of the Mwele Malecela Mentorship Program re-opened from March 30th until May 9. The program is looking for women and men who are experienced professionals and recognized as accomplished and influential leaders in the NTD community to guide the selected mentees through their professional development journey as part of the mentorship program. In an effort to reach a broader range of potential mentors, the MMM Program shared the application form within the NTDs network. The MMM Program team was able to identify a group of professionals with extensive knowledge of gender issues working at the highest ladder of the NTD field as they expressed their interest to become mentors for the mentorship program.

Next Steps

- ☞ Finalize the selection of mentees and mentors for cohort I
- ☞ Share final list of mentees and mentors to Mentium for matching process

LAUNCH AND IMPLEMENTATION

The launch and implementation of the program requires to secure availability of resources to guarantee the MMM Program will be launched effectively. In this regard, the MMM team was able to achieve the following throughout the past weeks:

- ↘↘↘ The **Menttium Matching Tool has been adapted and the online platform is being developed**. The MMM Program team is closely working with Menttium to ensure the Matching Tool and online platform as well as the Menttium Launch program are timely finalized and ready for the launch of the first cohort.
- ↘↘↘ **Mectizan Donation Program provided funding for two mentees**. The Mectizan Donation Program, through The Task Force for Global Health has sent the funds for two mentees to The End Fund. We thank Dr Yao Sodahlon (Director of the Mectizan Donation Program) for his generosity and commitment to invest in the inaugural cohort of the mentorship program.
- ↘↘↘ **The END Fund secured funding for three additional mentees**. We are thrilled to announce that The END Fund has confirmed to support three additional mentees to reach the MMM Program Steering Committee goal of selecting **ten** mentees and mentors for the first cohort. We take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to The End Fund for the continued support in making this possible.

Thanks to The END Fund and the Mectizan Donation Program, the MMM Program will make a difference in the lives of ten mentees who will benefit from the program, empowering them to achieve their full potential and create a positive impact in the NTDs field.

Next steps

- ☞ Working with Menttium to finalize the Menttium tools
- ☞ Finalize plans for launching the Cohort I mentees and mentors, including the kick-off training for mentees and mentors

PROGRAM GOVERNANCE

The structure of the program Governance was finalized to ensure the effective management and delivery of the program. The program governance includes of a Steering Committee and a Selection Committee, both comprising experienced professionals who provide strategic direction and guidance to the program. We believe that the program governance structure is critical to the success of the mentoring program, and this month they supported the MMM program in the following:

- ↘↘↘ **MMM Selection Committee have all accepted their appointments**. All eleven experts nominated for the Selection Committee have signed their appointment letters.
- ↘↘↘ **The MMM Selection Committee meeting is scheduled for May 2nd and May 3rd**. Prior to the two-day meeting in May, the Selection Committee will gather to review and approve the Applicants' Assessment Tool developed for their individual assessment of the applicants they will be assigned to review. The MMM Selection Committee meeting's outcome is to share a list of suitable mentees and mentors recommended for the first cohort.

Next steps

- * Convene a two-day meeting for the MMM Program Selection Committee to shortlist mentees and mentors for cohort I
- * Gather Steering Committee members to approve the mentees and mentors of the first cohort

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

For the program management and reporting, the MMM Program team continues to carry out check ins and evaluation sessions to identify any areas where improvement is needed to allow any necessary adjustments to be made to the program in time and therefore ensure the success of the mentorship program. Our close collaborations with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH), Menttium and The END Fund are critical for the MMM program to prevail.

Some of the highlights of our collaboration with the partners include the following:

📌 **The NTD Advocacy, Partnerships and Mentorship Officer position of the MMM program is currently being recruited** to secure program sustainability. The AFRO UCN cluster is carrying out all the necessary steps to ensure the best-suited candidate is recruited by June 2023.

Next steps:

- 👉 Continue sharing a regular progress report of the MMM program with all partners
- 👉 The Menttium, ASTMH and The END Fund agreements with WHO on the MMM program are signed
- 👉 Ensure bi-weekly meetings with partners to align with program objectives

Looking ahead, we expect a busy season for the coming months as we are set to enter the launch and implementation phase of the program. We are excited to be moving a step closer to the official launch of the program and look forward to sharing the development of our work in our next issue.

We thank you for your continuous support!

Annexe 1: Mwele Malecela Mentorship Program Milestones and Timeline for 2023

