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THE 73RD SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

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RC73

Member States adopt a new strategy to expedite the Implementation and Monitoring of National Action Plans on Antimicrobial Resistance in the African Region



Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is a major global public health threat that poses a serious challenge to humanity.

The prevalence of AMR is widespread and concerning, with countries in the Region experiencing high rates of illness and death attributed to AMR. This is further aggravated by existing health system limitations.

Out of 31 Member States, only 8 (25.8%) have a national Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) implementation policy, indicating a significant gap in optimizing antimicrobial drug use.

To address this growing health crisis and reduce the burden of AMR on society, the secretariat presented the Regional Strategy for Expediting the Implementation and Monitoring of National Action Plans on Antimicrobial Resistance, 2023–2030, at the Seventy-Third Session of the World Health Organization Regional Committee (RC73).

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RC73 Delegates reinforce the commitment to eradicate malaria in the African Region by increasing financial allocations

Ministers of Health , donors and partners participating in the high-level side event on “malaria financing” during the RC73 session in Gaborone, on on August 29, strongly called on all African countries to prioritise funding for the fight against malaria to protect lives.



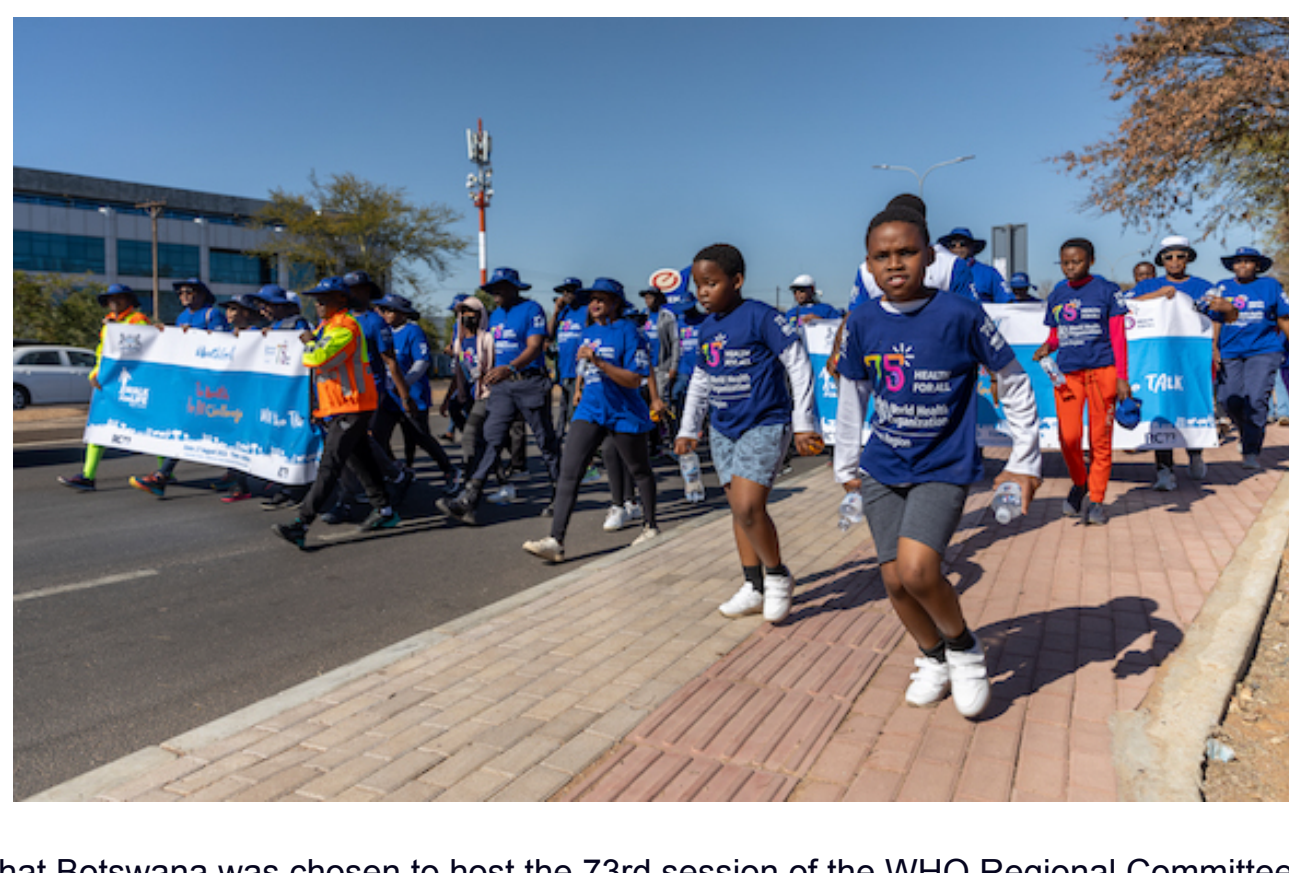
“Zero Malaria Starts with me, with you and with us. When we leave here, we must assume the responsibility for eliminating malaria in Africa, and we can do it. Let us work towards Africa free of Malaria, free of Neglected Tropical Diseases so that our continent can focus on development “, urged Ms Joy Phumaphi, Executive Secretary for African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA).

Despite the progress made between 2000 and 2020 of a 27% reduction in malaria incidence and a 49% reduction in related deaths the WHO African Region bears the heaviest burden of over 95% of cases and 96% of deaths globally, accounting for an estimated annual 234 million malaria cases and 593,000 deaths. As a result, the region is off-track from attaining the targets of the global malaria technical strategy and the malaria-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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Botswana, a good example of primary health care for the well-being of the population!



The fact that Botswana was chosen to host the 73rd session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa, cannot be a coincidence. It is the result of the country’s achievements health, especially primary health care, an area in which Botswana has made great progress to the point of being considered as a great example to be emulated.

Botswana owes this great performance to the AIDS pandemic which ravaged the country, but also awakened and motivated it to take appropriate measures to combat this disease which was decimating the population.

Faced with this scourge, the Botswana authorities driven by a fierce desire to stop the carnage, have taken substantial measures with the help of partners including WHO, to strengthen the country’s health system by basing it on promotion of primary health care to improve universal health coverage and access to health care through community mobilization and participation. On the second day of the 73rd session of the Regional Committee for Africa, five health officials from Botswana shared with the audience the success factors for Botswana ’s primary health care. These included the Vice-President His Honor Lumber Tsogwane, the Minister of Health Dr. Edwin Dikoloti, and the WHO Regional Director for Africa Dr. Matshidiso Moeti.

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Strengthening multisectoral actions to address the nutrition and food insecurity crisis in the African Region

The African Region is facing a significant challenge in tackling malnutrition, which hinders achieving sustainable development goals and affects millions of lives.



According to the State of Food Security and Nutrition 2022 report, 278 million Africans suffer from hunger; and in 2020, 894 million could not afford a healthy diet. These factors contribute to undernutrition, obesity, and non-communicable diet-related diseases, which vary between countries and have worsened in the Greater Horn of Africa, Madagascar, and the Sahel countries.

Food insecurity disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, including women, young children, and internally displaced people, exposing them to diseases and acute malnutrition. Despite the efforts of governments and development partners, progress in addressing these challenges is slow due to climate change, conflicts, and displacements, low agricultural productivity, population growth, changing diets, limited access to healthcare services, weak governance and institutions, and the global food, finance, and energy crisis.

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RC73 Exhibition



Delegates are invited to visit the various exhibitions in the tent outside the GICC.