

PRESS RELEASE

The Ministry of Public Health / National Malaria Control Programme – NMCP, the Réseau des Parlementaires sur les questions de Populations, de Développement et de Santé publique (RPPDS), and Impact Santé Afrique (ISA), organised the official launch of the « Parliamentarian’s Task Force for Malaria Resource in Cameroon».

#ParliamentariansAgainstMalaria
IT IS URGENT TO ACT



Yaounde, June 17th 2021 – Cameroon is one of the 11 countries most affected by malaria in the world, with **7.3 million cases** and **11,500 deaths** each year due to the disease, according to World Health Organisation (WHO). **Pregnant women and children under 5 years of age are the most affected and account for 70% of deaths.** Malaria is therefore one of the leading causes of death and hospitalisation in Cameroon. The arrival of COVID-19 has a negative impact on the fight against malaria for instance, causing low attendance of health centres by the population.

In this light, the NGO **Impact Santé Afrique (ISA)**, the **Réseau des Parlementaires sur les questions de Populations, de Développement et de Santé publique** and the **National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP)** organised on Tuesday June 15th 2021 in Yaounde, the official launch of the “**Parliamentarian’s Task Force for Malaria Resource Mobilisation in Cameroon**”. This Task Force will take strong action to fill the gaps in the current National Malaria Strategic Plan to improve access to health services and malaria.

At the end of this meeting, strong recommendations were made, for instance:

- **The increase of the national budget allocated to health by 3% in 2022, bringing the health budget to 7% compared to the current rate of 4%** and this progressively each year until the target of 15% of the national budget allocated to health is reached in accordance with the 2001 Abuja Declaration;
- **The creation of a Parliamentarians Monitoring Committee on the respect of the State's commitments in the health** (e.g. mobilisation of counterpart funds from the Global Fund Malaria, Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS grant);
- Improving access to health services through the implementation of community interventions, **providing a status for Community Health Worker (CHW) and the allocation of domestic funding for these Community Health Workers.**

The Parliamentarians' Task Force was therefore officially launched and will be hosted by the Réseau des Parlementaires sur les questions de Populations, de Développement et de Santé publique (RPPDS) with the support of technical partners (WHO, NGO Impact Santé Afrique (ISA), Ministry of Public Health/PNLP).

A working group will ensure the follow-up of the recommendations of this meeting as well as the immediate implementation of the actions of the Task Force. The Parliamentarians present (MPs and Senators from all regions of Cameroon) made a strong commitment to take all necessary measures to save lives.

About ISA: *Impact Santé Afrique is an African NGO based in Cameroon whose main objective is to contribute to the improvement of people's health and the fight against malaria. For more information, website www.impactsante.org. Contact: edith.zendja@impactsante.org Facebook: Impact Santé Afrique | Twitter: ImpSanteAfrique*

About NMCP Cameroon / MINSANTE: *The National Malaria Control Program is a program of the Ministry of Public Health that deals exclusively with the issue of malaria. The main objective of this program is to ensure universal and equitable access to the most effective malaria prevention and management interventions at an affordable cost to the entire Cameroonian population, including the most vulnerable and disadvantaged. For more information, visit www.pnlp.cm Facebook: Programmepalucameroun | Twitter: @CamerounPnlp*