

3.4. The Challenge to Strengthen Health Interventions for Malaria Control

In order to illustrate and discuss this item of the agenda, “The Challenge of Scaling Up Interventions Against Malaria in the African Region” was presented. The burden of malaria in Africa is great, with projected economic loss of more than \$12,000 million by the end of 2000. The GDP is 32% lower than expected because of malaria, which is a major cause of poverty and inequity.

A total of 550 million people are at risk, 75% live in areas with stable transmission, 17% in epidemic areas and 8% in areas of low or no risk. Two hundred and seventy million clinical cases are reported per year, with 950,000 deaths/yr, mainly children under five years of age.

The objectives of RBM in Africa are:

- Reduce malaria burden as a contribution to health and socio-economic development
- Reduce malaria mortality by half by 2010
- By 2030, malaria will neither be the major contributor to mortality and morbidity, nor be of socio-economic consequence

To be able to achieve these objectives, interventions will be scaled up in the following two areas:

- Strengthening Health Systems: (1) Policy Issues; (2) Developing partnership at country level; (3) Improving organization and services; (4) Human resource management; (5) Drug procurement and distribution/management system; (6) Health Care financing; (7) Capacity for advocacy and social mobilization; (8) Health information, monitoring and evaluation.
- Technical interventions: (1) disease management; (2) epidemic preparedness, prevention and response; (3) Preventive measures: chemoprophylaxis in pregnancy; (4) Preventive measures: promoting the use of ITMs (mosquito nets); Preventive measures: development of malaria vaccines; (5) Strengthening the Regional Office to play the coordinating, support and monitoring roles.