

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

Message from the Chief Executive Director on the World Malaria Day 2022

Together, we can #FightForWhatCounts to #EndMalaria

Today, Ifakara Health Institute (IHI) joins the world to mark World Malaria Day – a day commemorated around the world every year on April 25th. This year's theme is "**Harness innovation to reduce the malaria disease burden and save lives.**" Ifakara remains committed to fighting to end malaria and maintains this focus through its comprehensive approach to research.

As an Institute, we take pride in the significant progress we have made to control and ultimately eliminate malaria. Over the past year, our team of scientists have conducted research studies on malaria and published more than 45 papers in peer reviewed journals. Making headlines recently, was a groundbreaking study that followed up 6,700 children after 20 years of being enrolled in the social marketing of bed nets trial. The findings have revealed the long-term benefits of using treated mosquito nets in early childhood and survival to adulthood.

Our impact on the public health sector has brought substantial progress in malaria control efforts such as the groundbreaking malaria vaccine "RTS, S/ASO1" which has now been recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) for children at risk. Ifakara was instrumental in the evaluation of the performance and safety of an earlier version of the vaccine in infants in Tanzania, including the feasibility of incorporating the vaccine into the standard immunization programs recommended by the WHO.

Ifakara recognizes the importance and critical role of multisectoral partnerships in achieving significant strides towards the shared goal of malaria elimination. We value our partners and collaborators who have advanced our work in malaria research, both at the local level and global stage. Through these collaborations, we have achieved significant progress in the evaluation of a number of malaria control products such as vaccines, bio-larvicides and spatial repellants. Last week, H.E. President Samia Suluhu Hassan visited SC Johnson's Centre for Insect Science and Family Health, in the US that manufactures the long lasting "mesh spatial repellent". Ifakara is evaluating the efficacy of this potential malaria control product.

In contributing through research, and innovations, Ifakara strives to bring long-term and transformative impact – that will reduce the malaria disease burden and save the lives of millions across the world, just like this year's theme has urged us all to act.

On this #WorldMalariaDay we join the rest of the world to #FightForWhatCounts and #EndMalaria. We should always say to our own selves that #ZeroMalariaStartsWithMe.

Happy Malaria Day!

Dr. Honorati Masanja
Chief Executive Director
Monday, April 25th 2022