

MOMENTS THAT DEFINE US...

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CIVIL SOCIETY FOR MALARIA ELIMINATION



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Ending Malaria in Asia-Pacific: Now We Can. Now We Must.

On World Malaria Day 2026, we stand in solidarity with communities and civil society across the Asia-Pacific region and across the world in reaffirming our shared commitment to ending malaria under the theme “Driven to End Malaria: Now We Can. Now We Must.” The tools, knowledge, and science to eliminate malaria exist – but without urgent and sustained action, progress will stall and reversals will follow.

Despite significant gains over the past two decades, malaria remains a persistent threat in several countries, disproportionately affecting vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations. Today, the region stands at a pivotal moment. A concerning resurgence of malaria is emerging, driven by intersecting challenges: the spread of drug-resistant parasites, increasing insecticide resistance, climate-related shifts expanding transmission zones, and the lingering strain of COVID-19 on already fragile health systems. These pressures are most acute in border regions and among mobile and underserved communities, where access to timely prevention, diagnosis and treatment remains uneven.

“For countries committed to malaria elimination by 2030, delayed investment from Government and Development agencies now will result in significantly higher costs later – in lives lost, in economic burden, and in reversing hard-won gains. Conversely, targeted and sustained financing at this critical stage offers one of the highest returns in global health: accelerating sustainable elimination, preventing resurgence and reducing long-term costs,” said Dr Md Akramul Islam, Senior Director of Health Programme and Humanitarian Crisis Management Programme, BRAC.

The role of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in supporting countries in the Asia-Pacific to achieve malaria elimination cannot be understated. Furthermore, the role of the Global Fund extends far beyond disease-specific financing. Its investments have been foundational in strengthening health systems across the Asia-Pacific region – supporting laboratories, surveillance systems, supply chains, and the health workforce that underpins effective malaria responses. These same systems are critical for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (PPPR), enabling countries to detect, respond to, and contain emerging health threats. By investing in integrated, resilient systems and promoting country ownership and accountability, the Global Fund has become a cornerstone of both disease control and global health security. Sustained support for the Global Fund is therefore not only essential to ending malaria, but also to safeguarding broader health resilience and preparedness for future pandemics.

At the same time, the region faces a critical financing transition. Many countries supported by the Global Fund are facing reduced or entering their final malaria grant allocations, as global funding constraints tighten and replenishment resources fall short of growing needs. This comes at a time when the Asia-Pacific region faces a substantial malaria financing gap – estimated at nearly \$478 million in Asia-Pacific alone. This creates major challenges: countries must absorb the costs of malaria programmes into national budgets, maintain essential services in high-burden and hard-to-reach areas, and avoid disruptions to prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. With careful transition planning, there is a real risk of service interruptions, resurgence of cases, and loss of elimination gains, particularly in fragile settings and cross-border areas where external financing has been critical. Ensuring continuity will require strengthened domestic resource mobilisation, innovative financing, and sustained support and investments for community systems to prevent a rollback of progress at this pivotal stage.

Innovative financing mechanisms offer a critical and underutilized opportunity to generate more predictable and sustainable funding streams. When designed inclusively, these approaches can complement traditional donor financing, reduce volatility and better align resources with long-term elimination goals.

“However, financing alone is not enough. The leadership and engagement of communities and civil society are indispensable to achieving lasting impact. Community health workers, local organisations, and affected populations are often at the frontline of the malaria response – ensuring services reach those most in need, addressing barriers to care, strengthening surveillance and holding systems accountable. Their expertise and lived experience must be central to the design, implementation and monitoring of malaria programmes,” said Tim Vora, Global Fund Regional Artemisinin-resistance Initiative (RAI) CSO representative, and vice-chair of the Cambodia Coordination Committee.

#WorldMalariaDay #EndMalaria #NowWeCanNowWeMust



Evidence consistently shows that investments in community systems deliver measurable impact and results. Community and civil society organizations are essential to reaching underserved populations, maintaining service continuity in fragile settings, and maximising the effectiveness and accountability of investments.

For donors and policymakers, this underscores a clear set of priorities:

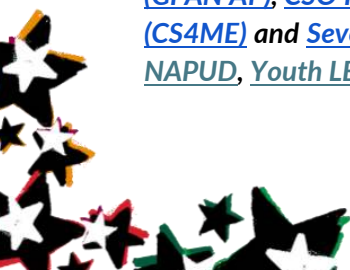
- **Sustain and increase financing** to prevent resurgence and protect prior investments through proven mechanisms such as the Global Fund as well as domestic budgets;
- **Invest in community-led and community-based responses** as a core pillar of malaria strategies;
- **Advance the development and implementation of innovative financing mechanisms**, with meaningful involvement of communities and civil society;
- **Strengthen cross-border and regional collaboration** to address transmission in hard-to-reach and mobile populations; and
- **Accelerate the deployment of new tools and strategies** to address resistance and climate-related risks.

The Asia-Pacific region has demonstrated that malaria elimination is within reach. But without decisive and coordinated action, current gains may be reversed. Strategic investments made today—grounded in international solidarity and strengthened by community engagement—will determine whether the region remains on track to meet its 2030 goals.

On this World Malaria Day, we call on donors and policymakers to act with urgency and foresight – to safeguard progress, close critical financing gaps, and invest in the systems and communities that will ultimately deliver a malaria-free future.

#MoreNowThanEver. . . Now We Can. Now We Must.

This statement is jointly published on World Malaria Day 2026 by [Global Fund Advocates Network Asia-Pacific \(GFAN AP\)](#), [CSO Platform](#), [Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance \(APLMA\)](#), [Civil Society for Malaria Elimination \(CS4ME\)](#) and [Seven Alliance](#) (a consortium of Asia-Pacific networks: [APCOM](#), [APN+](#), [APNSW](#), [APTN](#), [ICWAP](#), [NAPUD](#), [Youth LEAD](#))



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