



ADVANCING MALARIA ELIMINATION AS A GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY PRIORITY THROUGH KOREA-AFRICA PARTNERSHIP

As the Republic of Korea advances its vision of becoming a *Global Responsible Power*, the upcoming Korea-Africa Foreign Ministers' meeting offers a decisive opportunity to translate commitment into action by elevating **malaria elimination as a flagship initiative of Korea-Africa cooperation in 2026**.

Malaria is not solely an African challenge – it is a global health security threat. In today's interconnected world, infectious diseases, including malaria, weakens labour markets, disrupts supply chains, fuels inequalities and undermines economic growth across continents. Climate change and drug resistance are accelerating its spread, turning a preventable disease into a systemic global risk.

Accelerating malaria elimination globally, including in Africa, is therefore a strategic investment in global stability, economic resilience and shared prosperity – including for Korea.

From Commitment to Credibility

President Lee Jae-Myung has articulated a clear vision: Korea as a “Global Responsible Power”.

Malaria elimination is the most immediate, measurable, and visible way to deliver that vision.

- It translates the 4th Basic Plan on International Development Cooperation into action.
- It operationalises Articles 14 (health cooperation) and 23 (ODA scale-up to \$10 billion by 2030) of the Korea-Africa Joint Declaration
- It demonstrates that Korea is not only participating in global agendas – but shaping them.

Anchoring in Global Partnerships: The Role of the Global Fund

The global malaria response is at a breaking point:

- A \$9.3 billion annual need is met with only \$3.9 billion in funding;
- Traditional donors are stagnating or retreating; and
- Drug resistance and climate change are outpacing current tools.

At the centre of this system is the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund), which finances over 60% of global malaria programmes and is the world's leading multilateral mechanism for combating infectious diseases, build and strengthen resilient and sustainable health systems.

Korea has proven itself a committed partner and has consistently expanded its contribution to the Global Fund, underscoring its role as a reliable and increasingly influential donor. Strengthened engagement will:

- Sustain global progress against malaria, AIDS and tuberculosis (TB)
- Maximise efficiency through pooled financing
- Ensure coherence between Korea's bilateral initiatives and global strategies

Korea's Innovation Advantage: A Catalyst for Malaria Elimination

Korea brings a comparative advantage in innovation that can accelerate malaria elimination beyond conventional approaches and bring one of the most powerful innovation ecosystems in global health:

- One of only three countries globally producing WHO-prequalified malaria diagnostics
- Breakthrough treatments such as Pyramax, capable of addressing drug resistance
- Advanced pipelines in AI diagnostics, digital microscopy and next-generation therapies
- Proven excellence in data-driven disease surveillance and rapid response systems.

This is not theoretical potential – it is deployment-ready capability.

These innovations position Korea not just as a donor, but as a provider of scalable, future-oriented solutions for global health challenges and set new standards, transforming how global health is delivered.

A New Model for Partnership: K-ODA 2.0

To fully leverage these strengths, Korea should pioneer a K-ODA 2.0 model that will shift from traditional aid to strategic partnership. This K-ODA 2.0 model must:

- Combine cutting-edge Korean technology with African implementation systems
- Generate real-world clinical data and procurement readiness
- Build African self-sustaining health infrastructure and workforce capacity
- Supports the transfer and localisation of innovation, ensuring long-term sustainability
- Positions Korea as an exporter of tailored health systems and infrastructure and co-creator of solutions – not just a funder

The Engine of Delivery: Whole-of-Society Implementation Framework

Malaria elimination will not be achieved through funding alone. It requires a tripartite execution model bringing together:

- Public sector leadership and financing
- Private sector innovation and technological expertise
- Civil society's trusted, community-level delivery networks

This approach ensures that innovation is accessible, inclusive and locally owned and will turn ambition into lasting, system-wide impact.

Strategic Leadership Context of Korea: Chairing G20 and Global Health

Korea's leadership in malaria elimination aligns directly with its upcoming role in chairing the G20 in 2028 where global health security is increasingly recognised as a core pillar of economic resilience and geopolitical stability.

By advancing a flagship malaria elimination initiative in partnership with Africa, Korea can:

- Demonstrate credible global leadership ahead of and during its G20 Chairmanship
- Strengthen alignment between development, health security and economic governance agendas
- Position health equity as a central component of global economic stability discussions
- Showcase a model of practical, results-driven multilateral cooperation

Malaria elimination thus becomes not only a development priority, but also a signature agenda that reinforces Korea's leadership role in shaping global governance outcomes and health development at the G20 level.

Delivering Shared Prosperity

This initiative offers clear, mutual benefits:

- **For Korea:** Expanded global market access for Korean health and biotech industries, and strengthened credibility as a *Global Responsible Power* leading on innovation and humanitarian impact
- **For Africa:** Strengthened health systems, reduced disease burden and enhanced economic resilience

Malaria elimination is one of the clearest tests of our collective ability to deliver on global health equity. By combining Korea's technological innovation, its growing multilateral leadership through the Global Fund, and strong Africa partnerships, this initiative can become an example of 21st-century development cooperation – advancing health security not only for Africa, but for the world. More now than ever, the time is to act now.

This statement is collectively released by **Civil Society for Malaria Elimination (CS4ME)** – a network of over 1000 malaria civil society organisations globally; **CSO Platform** – a platform of over 60 malaria CSO and community groups from ASEAN; **Global Fund Advocates Network (GFAN)** – made up of over 1200 members globally working on HIV/AIDS, TB and/or Malaria and health equity; **Global Fund Advocates Network Africa (GFAN Africa)** – which includes 500 community and civil society representatives across Anglophone and Francophone Africa; **Global Fund Advocates Network Asia-Pacific (GFAN AP)** – a platform of over 50 community and civil society country and regional organisations from the Asia-Pacific working on HIV/AIDS, TB and/or malaria; **Korean Advocates for Global Health (KAGH)** – made up of 90 partner organisations; and **Unitaid Advocates Network (UAN)** – made up of over 250 members from around the world to support resource mobilisation for Unitaid and amplify advocacy on health innovation, equitable access and sustainable global financing.