

25th April M4M/Voices

In Mozambique the World Malaria Day was celebrated as a day to reinforce coordination, commitment on malaria fight and a day of awareness to do concrete actions to reduce the disease burden.

The coordination was demonstrated by the organization of one joint event in Maputo province including all NMCP partners. All of them, joined efforts to organize a malaria fair week, including a photo exhibition by a renowned international photographer picturing malaria in Mozambique. At the fair several products were exhibited, such as the malaria IEC materials, prevention methods, treatment and pictures. During this week the winners of the media award received their prize; malaria competitions were held; a debate on the relation between malaria and HIV/AIDS took place and children participated at a malaria hat workshop.

The commitment on malaria fight was also demonstrated by journalists that on the 25th April meet in Maputo. Participants in this meeting were editors and stakeholders. The journalists defined the need to registrar the media network on malaria and defined the targets of their actions on malaria control media contribution.

All malaria control efforts have as last beneficiary the communities. So, they were as well as an important part of this day celebration. In provinces, namely, Nampula, Inhambane, Cabo Delgado, Manica and Sofala the communities were invited to present their understanding of malaria and its consequences thru theater, cultural activities and malaria information competitions.

Special attention was given to communities' health workers in the northern provinces of Nampula and Cabo Delgado, where they received an education and demonstration kit to support their activities, composed by a back pack written "Health Worker", including LLIN, serial album, t-shirts and caps that identify them as Health Activists.

During this celebration Mozambique made itself presence in Ghana. As prize of the award the winners of media award went to Ghana where they had an opportunity to interact with Ghanaian journalists and scientists on malaria control efforts, participate in field visit to research centers in Keta & Dodowa. The journalists listed out the common issues they face as

- ✓ Lack of access to official information (governmental) regarding the objective actions taken in malaria control;
- ✓ The NGOs fears to provide interviews,
- ✓ The lack of institutional funds in their communications organs to work on health and malaria in particular.

The following solutions were identified during the Ghana visit, to improve media work:

- ✓ To organize forums to collect information thru meetings that join journalists, scientists, NMCP, NGOs and stakeholders to discuss strategic actions in place to malaria control. This meeting can take place two times a week and could be an opportunity to have information and create basis for the journalists follow up what was defined or referred.

- ✓ Establish good relationship with scientists, research centers and NGOs. So that journalists can receive from them support in terms of information, and possibly financial for specific journalist field trip with objective of reporting.