



East African Community Regional Detailed Action Plan for Responding to Antimalarial drug Resistance

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RBM CMWG Meeting: Kigali, Rwanda (24 September 2024)

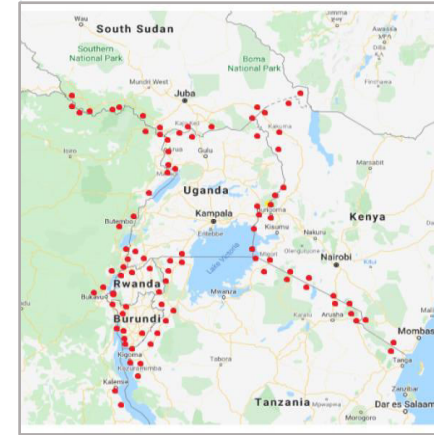


EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY GREAT LAKES MALARIA INITIATIVE

- The **East African Community** is an inter-governmental agency that calls for regional cooperation among the Partner States.
- The EAC region is implementing a cross-border Malaria Initiative called the **Great Lakes Malaria Initiative (GLMI)** aimed at reducing cross border transmission of malaria through implementation **well synchronised, cross-border malaria interventions** [GLMI strategic plan 2021 – 2026].
- The East African Communities (EAC) Partner States' experts noted the **urgent need for concerted efforts to address antimalarial drug resistance**, which is a growing threat to the malaria response in the region.
- The EAC is collaborating with the **Mitigating Antimalarial Resistance Consortium for SE-Africa (MARC SE-AFRICA)** to develop a regional approach to responding to antimalarial resistance in East Africa.



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY



Map of EAC border settlements

THE REPUBLIC OF
BURUNDI



THE REPUBLIC OF
SOUTH SUDAN



THE DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF
CONGO



THE REPUBLIC OF
KENYA



THE REPUBLIC OF
RWANDA



THE REPUBLIC OF
UGANDA



THE UNITED
REPUBLIC OF
TANZANIA



GOAL: Working together to help translate evidence of antimalarial resistance into improved policy and practice



www.marcse-africa.org



Network, Landscape and Gap Analysis

Objectives: Find the gaps



Addressing Key Evidence Gaps

Objectives: Fill the gaps



Detailed Action Plan to Respond to Antimalarial Resistance

Objectives: Plan the way forward



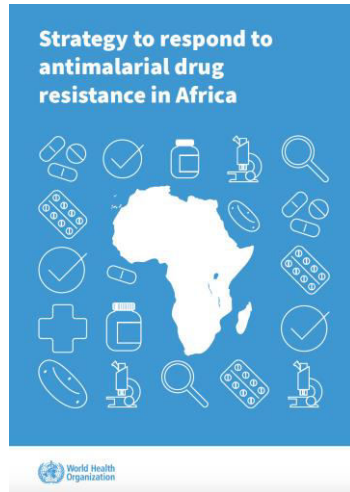
Implementation into Policy and Practice

Objectives: Make it all happen (and check if it works)

Mitigating Antimalarial Resistance Consortium for South-East Africa (MARC-SE Africa)



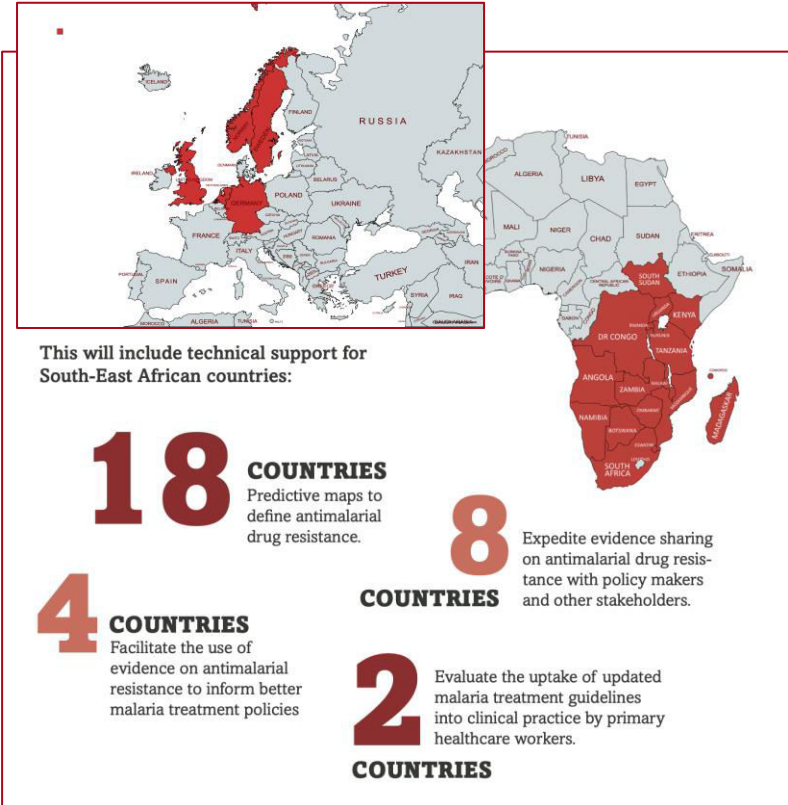
We work with NMPs & their partners in 19 malaria-endemic countries in SE-Africa to help tackle the imminent threat of antimalarial drug resistance, building on WHO Strategy including:



- Improve **data dissemination systems** to facilitate reactive and coordinated response to resistance data.
- **Pre-plan for a rapid treatment policy change**, with the support of partners including funding agencies, to avoid implementation delays.
 - Develop treatment policies promoting deliberate use of existing treatments to prevent and react to resistance.
 - Promote the availability of a diversified drug portfolio in countries.
- Ensure **coordinated and timely deployment of prevention, diagnosis, and treatment in the identified at-risk areas**.
- **Strengthen cross-border collaboration** on malaria activities to ensure coordinated resistance management.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- ✓ To help **synthesise evidence** on antimalarial resistance to inform malaria treatment policy and practice.
- ✓ To help develop a **regional data action plan (DAP)** to respond promptly to emerging antimalarial drug resistance.
- ✓ To update and disseminate **digital malaria treatment guidelines**.



Aim and Objectives of Regional DAP



AIM: To mitigate the emergence, selection, and spread of drug-resistant malaria parasites and maintain the efficacy of artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs) in East Africa

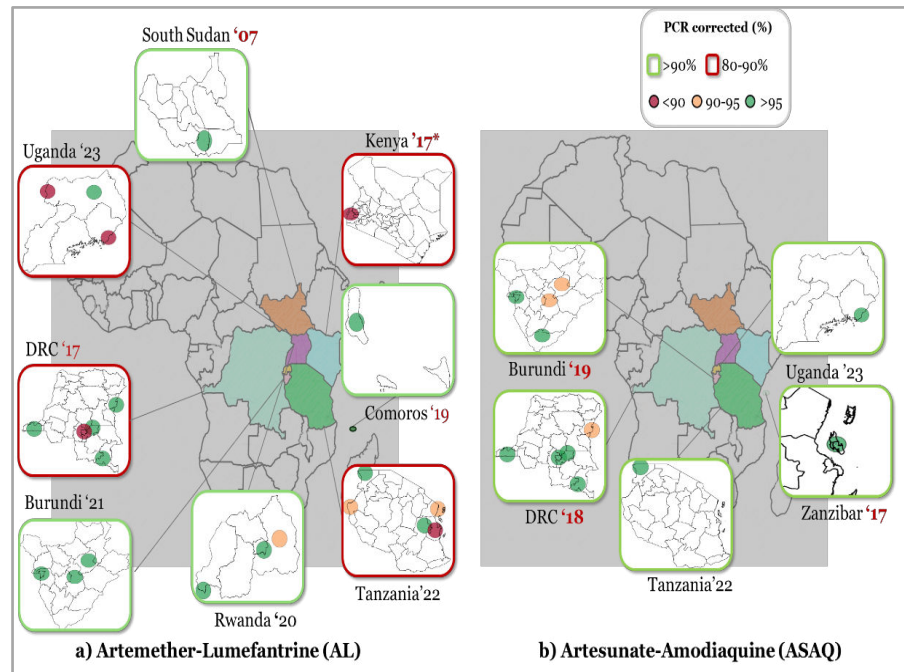
OBJECTIVES:

1. To **strengthen surveillance** and monitoring of antimalarial efficacy and resistance.
2. To **reduce antimalarial drug pressure**, particularly on artemether-lumefantrine
3. To **limit the selection and spread** of drug-resistant malaria parasites
4. To accelerate the generation of **new knowledge** needed to combat antimalarial drug resistance

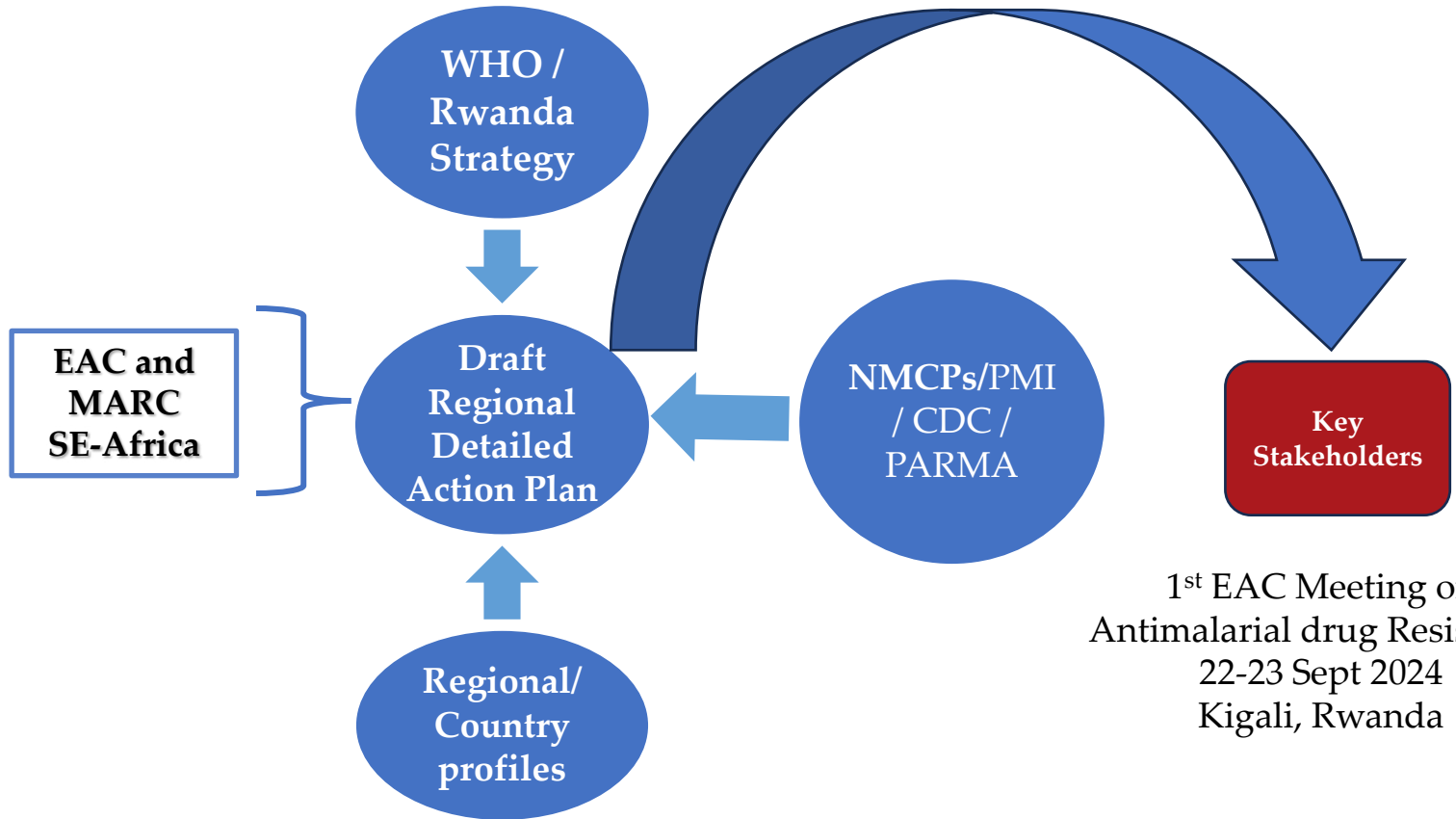
TARGET AUDIENCE: EAC NMPS, their Funders and Partners

REGIONAL DAP CONTENTS INCLUDE:

- Background & Rationale
- EAC NMP AMR response plan status
- Structure based on WHO Four Pillars Framework
- Proactive ACT diversification (incl. ACT comparison table)
- Describe and compare different evidenced-based interventions (e.g. switching ACTs, MFTs, SLD Primaquine)
- Strengthening regional & cross-border collaboration



Map of PCR-corrected Therapeutic Efficacy of AL and ASAQ
(van Wyk S. EAC Regional Report on Antimalarial Resistance in EAC)



1st EAC Meeting on Antimalarial drug Resistance

Kigali, Rwanda, 22-23 Sept 2024

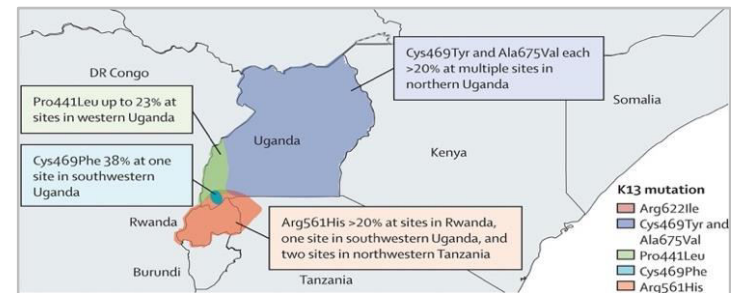


EAC secretariat to explore possibilities for a regional platform to facilitate regular regional engagement between Partner States and their partners on Antimalarial Drug Resistance, building on previous experiences:

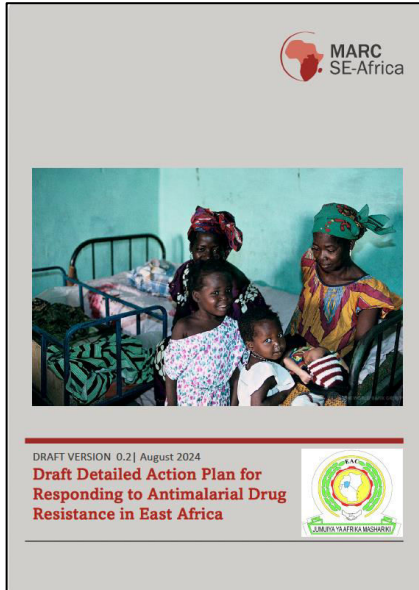
- Drive Advocacy and Resource mobilization
- Foster accountability, e.g. track which countries have AMR surveillance, response strategies, implementation progress ...
- Leverage ACT volumes needed with medium term commitment and coordinated procurement to drive down costs and diversify ACTs, and ideally avoid stockouts / expiry.
- Strengthen antimalarial resistance surveillance and timely evidence sharing (e.g. EANMAT)

Enable Cross-Border activities

- Joint action to mitigate the resistance, e.g. in the Kagera region
- Conduct joint TES together across borders
- Expand mobile vector control unit at the borders to include e.g. AMR surveillance, test and treat
- Regular (e.g. quarterly) reporting of surveillance data on the borders, on agreed minimum data, etc
- Leverage regional and country high-capacity laboratories to conduct genotyping and other high-level laboratory tests



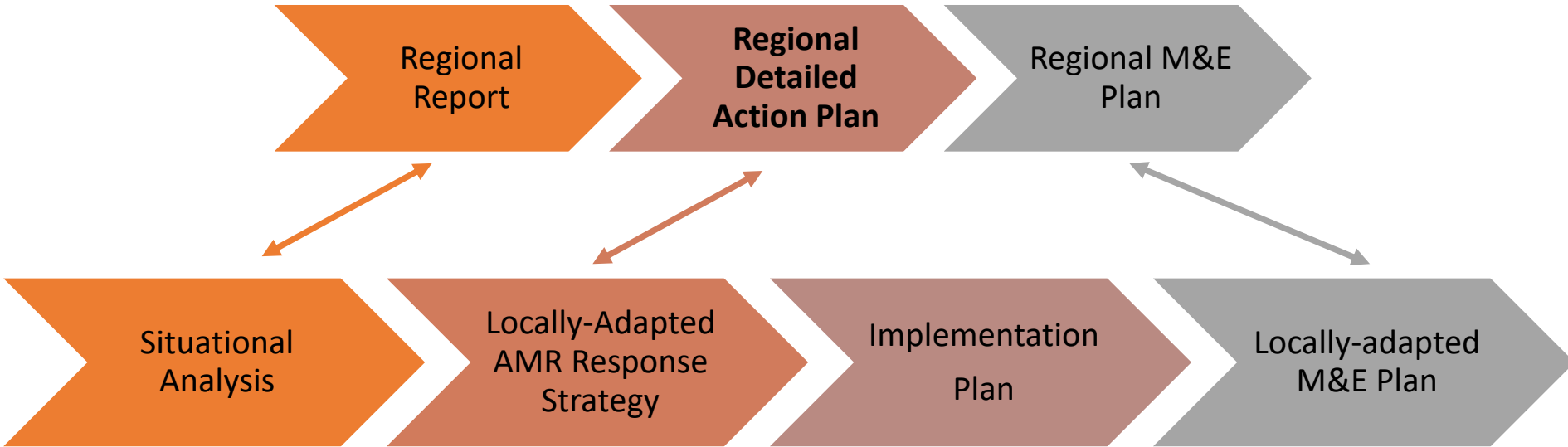
Prevalence of WHO-validated and candidate K13 markers of ART-R in East Africa (>5%)
Rosenthal et. al Lancet ID, 2024



Expand Regional DAP sections on

- Costs and benefits (return on investment)
- Private Sector
- Governance, including:
 - Medicine Quality Assurance
 - Expediting access to novel antimalarials
- Social Behaviour Change Communication
- Implementation Considerations: e.g. guide prioritizing interventions depending on country contexts.

EAC REGIONAL LEVEL



NATIONAL / CROSS-BORDER LEVEL

Task	Responsibility	Due Date
Revise <i>Detailed Action Plan for responding to Antimalarial Resistance in East Africa</i> (EAC DAP) to address NMP & Partner comments	MARC SE-Africa	15 October 2024
Regional NMP meeting to review and validate the EAC DAP	EAC / NMPs	By end November '24
EAC GLMI Malaria Expert working group meeting to review and validate the EAC DAP	EAC	By end November '24
Tabled at the 25 th ordinary meeting of the Sectoral Council of Ministers of Health	EAC	TBC

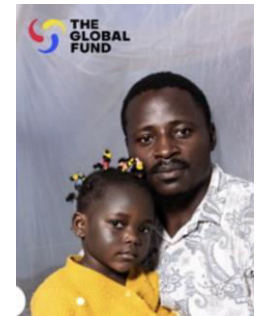
- While there are numerous country efforts to mitigate the effects of antimalarial drug resistance, cross-border and regional collaboration to date has been limited.
- Strong support confirmed by the EAC NMPs & their partners for strengthening regional collaboration on malaria activities to ensure coordinated resistance management.
- Clear need for a platform for coordination to ensure all partner states receive the desired technical and financial support.

There is broad consensus among donors, governments, and affected communities that protecting the efficacy of ACTs as global public health goods is a top global health priority



Mozambique
The Global Fund/Karin Schermbrucker

We have a **(narrow) window of opportunity** to avoid dire human and economic consequences due to widespread treatment failures in Africa, a region that bears the brunt of the global malaria burden. **We must act now.**





EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

Thank you all!



This project (Grant Agreement n° 101103076) is supported by the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking and its members.

Funded by the European Union under the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking. Neither of the aforementioned parties can be held responsible for them.