

A memorandum of understanding has been signed between the Global Fund and RAWCS-RAM to raise USD\$12m over a five-year period for the fight against malaria in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste and Vanuatu.

The Global Fund and RAWCS-RAM join hands to eliminate malaria in the Oceania region

Global progress on malaria elimination has stalled. Malaria continues to inflict unnecessary human and economic losses, mostly in developing countries. Pregnant women and children under five are disproportionately affected by the disease.

Within this context, the Global Fund and Rotary Australia Word Community Service Ltd-Rotarians Against Malaria (RAWCS-RAM) have formed a strategic partnership to accelerate malaria elimination and end the unnecessary heavy toll on humanity.

This partnership aims to raise US\$12 million over a five-year period to increase funding for malaria elimination programs in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu, and to prevent the re-establishment of the disease in Timor Leste.

Funds raised by the campaign will go towards scaling up critical malaria elimination activities including procurement and delivery of long-lasting insecticidal nets ("LLINs"), rapid diagnostic tests, treatments and care.

The positive impact of increased funding will be greatly felt by the poorer communities and most at-risk populations of pregnant women and children under five years. In the longer term, ending malaria will bring improved health and economic productivity to the populace. Fundamentally, underpinned by the Global Fund's mission and Rotarians' humanitarian service to save lives, we must eliminate malaria and bring health equity to these countries.

The campaign Manager, PDG Dai Mason (RAWCS-RAM) said: "This is a very exciting campaign that will boost the efforts in the Oceania region to eliminate malaria. Working with the Global Fund to step up the fight is a privilege and an opportunity not to be missed. There is hard work ahead of us to achieve our goals, but this makes it all the more worthwhile to know that we will change the lives of many people living in those countries."

Francoise Vanni, Director of External Relations of the Global Fund: "We applaud RAWCS-RAM's strong commitment to stepping up the fight against malaria, and we are honored to build this long-term partnership together. Malaria continues to be a significant burden on communities living in the Oceania region, but we can get closer to eradicating it by accelerating prevention and access to treatment. Building upon the powerful reach of RAWCS-RAM across the Asia Pacific region, we will work together to engage new partners from the private sector and Rotary networks to keep communities safe from malaria.