While NTDs and malaria are entirely preventable and treatable diseases, they continue to be a major obstacle to economic and social development in Africa, affecting the most marginalized populations.

The “March to Kigali” campaign was launched in April 2021, in the context of the build-up to the summit on NTDs and malaria on the eve of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Kigali, Rwanda, which provided a unique opportunity to further garner global attention and accelerate action to end these preventable and treatable diseases.

While this summit has been postponed due to COVID-19, the “March to Kigali” campaign seeks to maintain and foster this energy and to develop an integrated approach to advocating for the elimination of both NTDs and malaria.

“March to Kigali” is led by a group of like-minded CSOs (Civil Society Organizations) representing a range of Francophone and Anglophone African nations. It builds on the existing partnerships and platforms of the “No to NTDs” and “Zero Malaria Starts with Me” campaigns and aims to secure commitments from regional, national and sub-national stakeholders to end these epidemics by 2030, as part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It includes political engagement, private sector engagement, civil society and youth engagement.
Together let’s march to Kigali to say « No to NTDs » and « Zero Malaria Starts With Me »

#marchtokigali

4,971,674 confirmed cases in 2020
325 confirmed deaths in 2020
43% of population sleep under bed net

- Peak malaria transmission in June and October
- Dominant parasite species: Plasmodium falciparum (>90%)
- Highest malaria rate is in Volta Region

**SUCCESSES**

- 89% reduction in deaths since 2012
- Under-five malaria case fatality rate reduced by 80% from 2012 to 2019
- 93.3% coverage of seasonal malaria chemoprevention (SMC) in 2020
- 152% increase of testing of malaria cases (38% in 2012 to 96% in 2019)
- Participation in the RTS,S malaria vaccine trial since 2019
- Extensive roll-out of Zero Malaria Starts With Me campaign since April 2019
- Launch of the Zero Malaria Business Leadership Initiative planned in 2021

**CHALLENGES**

- Low bed net use (43%)
- No significant reduction in number of malaria cases
- Dwindling donor funds and large funding gap for national strategic plan ($412m from 2021–2025)
- Use of funds at district level inconsistent with national strategic plan

**Ghana is endemic for:** lymphatic filariasis (LF), onchocerciasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis (STH), schistosomiasis, yaws, Human African Trypanosomiasis (HAT), rabies, Leishmaniasis, buruli ulcer (BU), guinea worm, leprosy

- 8.81 million people received treatment and 8.41 million people did not receive treatment in 2019

**SUCCESSES**

- Elimination of blinding trachoma in 2018
- Coverage of Bilharzia increased from 24% in 2018 to 91% in 2019

**CHALLENGES**

- Treatment coverage of intestinal worms decreased from 73% in 2018 to 58% in 2019.
- Low coverage for treatment of intestinal worms (27% in 2019)

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**

- 82% of population do not have access to basic sanitation services
- 18% of population practicing open defecation
- 36% of population use a safely managed water source