



## **WORLD MALARIA DAY: 25 APRIL 2013**

### **AMREF calls for innovative funding approaches to fight malaria and save lives**

As the world begins discussions on the post 2015 agenda, about half of the world's population is still at risk of malaria with the disease being a leading cause of death amongst young children particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. Yet it is widely acknowledged that successful malaria control is critical to enable real progress towards the health MDGs and will make a significant contribution to progress in other areas including education, economic growth and fighting poverty. It is therefore paramount to maintain focus and attention in the fight against malaria at this critical moment.

Since 2000, tremendous progress has been made, thanks to the global commitment and huge investment in malaria control and elimination. The recent gains show that malaria can be defeated. Unfortunately these advances are increasingly threatened by a shortfall in funding due to the international crisis with history showing that if progress is not sustained, this could lead to a resurgence of the disease and jeopardise all efforts and investments.

As an international African based health organisation, AMREF is concerned by this situation that will put millions of lives at risk. Innovative ideas and approaches for funding are urgently needed to overcome this threat and stay on course. In this regard AMREF believes that African countries have the potential to expand domestic financing for malaria programmes through various mechanisms such as community initiatives, optimal management of local resources, and community-based health insurance schemes that will facilitate access to health services and reduce pressure on households. But these mechanisms will take time to be fully set up yet most of the countries in Africa are in a precarious situation and need urgent financial support.

AMREF is calling upon the international community to accelerate efforts and invest more in malaria control and elimination to sustain the gains already made. Furthermore, given that controlling malaria should be an integral part of a comprehensive development framework, AMREF advocates for greater focus on malaria control and elimination in the current post 2015 discussions.

Furthermore, as we celebrate this year's world Malaria Day under the theme 'Invest in the future: defeat malaria', we urge governments to intensify their investment in women and children's health. Knowing that investing in malaria means saving the lives of future generations, AMREF is working side by side with communities to improve babies and children's health through innovative integrated approaches such as Integrated Community Case Management (iCCM) and Maternal and Child Health integrated with TB/VIH. In addition, AMREF believes that the role of women is fundamental to the sustainable development of the continent, because healthy women can work, raise children, and contribute to the social and economic progress of their families and communities.