EMBARGO APRIL 25, 6 am

**Swiss Malaria Group Marks World Malaria Day 2024 with Renewed Commitment to Elimination Efforts**

**Basel, Switzerland – 24 April 2024 – As the world celebrates World Malaria Day on April 25, 2024, the Swiss Malaria Group (SMG) is pleased to announce the launch of a video quiz campaign designed to inform the public on the nature of malaria. What exactly is malaria, how is it transmitted to humans, what can we do against it, and how can we protect ourselves? Answers to these questions and many more are provided in the SMG’s new quiz campaign, shared via social media. This campaign features 21 short videos recorded by 13 representatives of SMG member organisations who answer 7 different questions in 3 different languages. These short videos provide a fun way to learn more about one of the world’s deadliest diseases!**

“Malaria remains a life-threatening disease caused by parasites that are transmitted to people through the bites of infected female *Anopheles* mosquitoes. It is preventable and curable, yet it remains a devastating global health issue, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa” says Manuel Hetzel, president of the Swiss Malaria Group and professor at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute. Like many other SMG members, Manuel Hetzel is currently in Kigali, Rwanda, where he is attending the 8th Multilateral Initiative on Malaria (MIM) Society Conference. This year's theme, 'Grassroots mobilization to end malaria: invest, innovate and integrate,' underscores the critical need for a unified approach in the fight against malaria. “Even if Switzerland has been free from malaria since the 1950s, the country still plays a pivotal role in fighting this disease through research, funding, and advocacy”, Katya Halil, from Medicines for Malaria Venture, adds“. Indeed, over the last 25 years, Swiss researchers, policymakers, and practitioners have worked closely with the global malaria community, and these collaborations have resulted in many advancements and learnings in malaria research and control. The active participation of SMG member organisations in the MIM Society Conference is a great reflection of Switzerland's commitment to ending malaria and of Swiss global solidarity and cooperation in public health”.

As we mark World Malaria Day 2024, the Swiss Malaria Group reaffirms its dedication to the global fight against malaria. Through our participation in the MIM Society Conference and our ongoing efforts within Switzerland and beyond, we are committed to investing in research, innovation and implementation to achieve a malaria-free world. SMG’s latest video quiz campaign is part of our efforts to raise awareness on the need for Switzerland and Swiss-based actors to remain active in the fight against this deadly disease.

For more information about the Swiss Malaria Group and our activities, please visit www.swissmalariagroup.ch

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| **About our World Malaria Day 2024 campaign:**  All videos are available on our Youtube channel. [<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoF7kodIZRZxEsCmbTslVSg>   * Our first quiz features the deadliest animal for humans – the mosquito. * Our second quiz presents some essential features of malaria. * Our third video spot tackles a question close to home: Is there malaria in Switzerland? * Our fourth video features information on inequalities in how malaria affects people * Our fifth quiz provides practical information on malaria prevention measures * Our sixth quiz sheds light on the regions of the world that are most affected by malaria * Finally, our seventh quiz video explains how malaria is transmitted to humans. |

**About the Swiss Malaria Group:**

The Swiss Malaria Group brings together eighteen members from research and academia, international organisations, public administration, the private sector and civil society, who engage together in the global fight against malaria.

Together, Swiss Malaria Group members cover the whole intervention chain, from research and innovation to large-scale implementation and advocacy on the ground. Swiss Malaria Group members are actively engaged in the research and development of improved medicines, diagnostics, vaccines, bed nets, integrated vector control methods, and insecticides; they also provide access to prevention methods, medicines and treatment. They also raise awareness on a global scale to achieve the goal of eliminating malaria. Swiss Malaria Group members advocate for investment in R&D for new tools against malaria and strong health systems. They all work towards maintaining and strengthening Switzerland's commitment to the fight against malaria, thereby preserving Switzerland's historic role in the fight against this infectious disease that still causes a massive burden in many regions of the world.

More information available at: www.swissmalariagroup.ch

Member organisations: https://www.swissmalariagroup.ch/en/about-us/members