

# ICW Statement

## *World Malaria Day Day: April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016*

### **CALLING ON WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV TO GET INFORMED, TAKE ACTION – END MALARIA FOR GOOD!**

Malaria co-infection causes 2 million deaths of people living with HIV per year.<sup>1</sup>

Updated research on the intersection of women living with HIV co-infected with Malaria is severely lacking,<sup>2</sup> however, we know that women living with HIV with Malaria co-infection are at increased risk of treatment failure of anti-malarial drugs which can have deadly consequences.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, Malaria has been reported to temporarily increase, HIV viral load and can lead to compromised immunity, giving rise to a host of other health challenges.<sup>4</sup>

Women living with HIV who are pregnant, in particular, have an increased risk of developing severe malaria with complications, and have an increased risk of adverse outcomes.<sup>5,6,7</sup> Additionally Pregnant women living with HIV and malaria co-infection are more likely to experience anaemia, symptomatic malaria infections, placental malaria infection, and low birth weight.

On this World Malaria Day the International Community of Women living with HIV (ICW) seeks to raise awareness about the deadly consequences of HIV and Malaria co-infection for all women of reproductive age and support women living with HIV to protect themselves and their families, and issue a call to action to governments and policy makers in health to respond to Malaria and HIV co-infection.

### **Protect Yourself and Your Family**

Malaria is preventable and curable and women living with HIV can protect themselves and their children against this potentially deadly disease. Women living with HIV can also sensitize and educate our sisters on the importance of preventive measures against malaria!

The WHO recommends:<sup>8</sup>

- Insecticide-treated mosquito nets & Indoor spraying with residual insecticides: Preventing mosquito bites is the best strategy to prevent Malaria.

1 [http://www.who.int/malaria/areas/high\\_risk\\_groups/hiv\\_aids\\_patients/en/](http://www.who.int/malaria/areas/high_risk_groups/hiv_aids_patients/en/)

2 <http://www.healthdata.org/news-release/deaths-and-infections-hiv-tuberculosis-and-malaria-plummet-globally>

3 [http://www.who.int/malaria/publications/atoz/who\\_hiv\\_2004\\_08/en/](http://www.who.int/malaria/publications/atoz/who_hiv_2004_08/en/)

4 [http://www.who.int/malaria/publications/atoz/who\\_hiv\\_2004\\_08/en/](http://www.who.int/malaria/publications/atoz/who_hiv_2004_08/en/)

5 [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(15\)00041-8/fulltext#back-bib3](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(15)00041-8/fulltext#back-bib3)

6 <http://trstmh.oxfordjournals.org/content/103/8/761.short>

7 <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9583605>

8 <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs094/en/>

- Anti-malarial drugs: If you know you will be exposed to Malaria talk with your Doctor or health care provider about whether an anti-malarial preventative drug is advisable.
- Early diagnosis and treatment: Malaria does not always have symptoms but if you have fever, headache, chills and vomiting get tested for Malaria.

## Take Action

As the world comes together to commemorate World Malaria Day, ICW calls on policy makers and governments to engage women living with HIV in efforts to 'End Malaria for good' and to ensure healthy maternal and child health outcomes for women living with HIV and their children.

ICW's Call to Action on Women living with HIV & Malaria:

- Ensure that women living with HIV are prioritized in responses to prevent and treat Malaria.
- Governments and the global HIV response must invest in:
  - studies that address malaria prevention in women living with HIV;
  - research on the often dangerous interactions between antimalarial and antiretroviral drugs;
- Prioritize integration of malaria programs with ante-natal care, particularly within Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) programs;
- Strengthen comprehensive antenatal care services to decrease malaria in pregnancy outcomes and improve maternal and newborn outcomes;
- We call for programs that focus on enhanced malaria prevention during pregnancy to decrease the risk of adverse birth outcomes and transmission of HIV from mother to child;
- Meaningful engagement of communities and particularly networks of women living with HIV must be scaled-up to include community sensitization and mobilization around Malaria prevention and understanding the impacts of Malaria co-infection on women living with HIV who are pregnant.

For more information visit: [www.worldmaliaday.org](http://www.worldmaliaday.org)

**NOTHING FOR US WITHOUT US!**

For more information please visit: [www.iamicw.org](http://www.iamicw.org)

The International Community of Women Living with HIV, the first and only global network by and for women and girls living with HIV, has worked for over 20 years to address and support the challenges of, as well as collectively celebrate, all self-identifying women and girls living with HIV throughout the world.



[iamicw.org](http://iamicw.org)