

Leading bed net manufacturer, Vestergaard, advocates prioritization of quality bednets to eliminate Malaria in Nigeria

Lagos, Nigeria, 30 March, 2021 – On Tuesday 30 March 2021, global health company [Vestergaard](#) formed part of a panel discussion, hosted by [The Corporate Alliance on Malaria in Africa \(CAMA\)](#) and its partners to discuss optimizing vector control interventions towards Malaria elimination in Nigeria. The conversation included high-level representation from governments, private sector stakeholders including Vestergaard, academia, and civil society. During the discussion, emphasis was placed on the need for Public–Private Partnerships to maximize impact on malaria vector control interventions in Nigeria, as well as to address gaps and highlight tools and innovations in vector control surveillance across Africa.

“The cornerstone of malaria prevention are essentially vector control in the form of long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) and indoor residual spraying (IRS),” said panellist, Patrick Sieyes, Head of Global Growth, Vestergaard. “Given the resource limitations, investment in the most cost-effective and basic tools, such as high quality PBO Nets and vector control tools must be prioritized to maximize impact,” he said.

Research shows that LLINs, in particular, are responsible for averting 68% of malaria cases, and that the increased access to quality LLINs is a major factor behind the 60% reduction in malaria deaths since 2000, – saving approximately 6.2 million lives since 2001^{1,2,3}.

Following the recent update on the WHO classification of insecticide-treated net products based on their efficacy claims⁴, there is an opportunity for strong regulatory frameworks such as Nigeria’s, to assist the Program in understanding a product’s claims. This is an opportunity for data to guide deployment of products where they can have the most impact.

“Not all countries have a strong regulatory approval system for vector control tools. Nigeria should be commended for establishing a systematic product registration and traceability implementation strategy, in line with the National Strategy published by the Federal Ministry of Health in May 2020,” said Sieyes. “There is an opportunity for Nigeria to leverage its institutions and systems to lead the way in the creation of an end-to-end quality monitoring framework for bed nets”, he noted.

In addition, Nigeria is well positioned to help close the data gap on new vector control tools recently introduced in the fight against malaria. For instance, in the case of PBO nets, manufacturers across the globe have taken different approaches to incorporating PBO synergists into net materials, resulting in a variability of PBO concentration in nets. There is also a concern that these nets may not sustain increased efficacy over the 3 years lifetime of the product. Therefore, Vestergaard insists it is vital to evaluate the performance of the vector control tools over time, with an adequate regulatory framework in place, such as a systematic post-market surveillance program^{5, 6, 7}.

“The roundtable aimed to have a structured discussion with relevant stakeholders to foster Public–Private Partnerships said Omobolanle Victor-Laniyan, Head, Sustainability, Access Bank, and Co-Chair, CAMA. We have found that strategic partnerships in the private sector, such as Vestergaard, can be

¹ [Bhatt S, Weiss DJ, Cameron E, et al. The effect of malaria control on Plasmodium falciparum in Africa between 2000 and 2015. Nature. 2015;526\(7572\):207–211. doi:10.1038/nature15535](#)

² <https://www.who.int/malaria/publications/world-malaria-report-2015/report/en/>

³ <https://www.who.int/news/item/09-12-2015-new-report-signals-country-progress-in-the-path-to-malaria-elimination>

⁴ <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/333240/9789240007024-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

⁵ <https://allianceformalariaprevention.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/4.-High-Burden-to-High-Impact-How-stratification-can-improve-targeting-of-vector-control-interventions-WHO.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.who.int/malaria/publications/world-malaria-report-2019/World-Malaria-Report-2019-briefing-kit-eng.pdf>

⁷ https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/malaria/mpac-documentation/mpac-december2020-hbhi3-update-session2-presentation.pdf?sfvrsn=76427f02_7

highly effective in making an impactful change and aiding in the elimination Malaria in Nigeria,” Laniyan continued”

“Vestergaard’s pledge to quality is a commitment to save more lives and we are invested in exploring the opportunity to create a link between post-marketing surveillance activities and the regulatory approval process. This link would provide regulatory authorities with information about product performance in real conditions of use and thus contribute to the communities in which these products are deployed,” concluded Sieyes.

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ABOUT VESTERGAARD

Vestergaard manufactures innovative, high-quality tools to improve global health outcomes in mainly low- and middle-income countries. Known for their PermaNet® long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) to prevent malaria, the company has manufactured 800 million PermaNet® protecting an estimated 1.6 billion lives in malaria-endemic countries. Additional company initiatives focus on fighting neglected tropical diseases, reducing food insecurity through Chombo and ZeroFly® storage bags and utilising technology to drive data-driven decision making.

Founded in 1957, the company is headquartered in Switzerland, with an office in India, a research and development lab in Africa and a quality control and manufacturing lab in Vietnam.

ABOUT CAMA

CAMA is a GBCHealth-led initiative to drive partnerships for malaria control and elimination. The Alliance is a unique coalition of companies from various industries, all with business interests in Africa. CAMA channels the collective force and voice of the private sector to drive impact on malaria in Africa from workplaces to region-wide initiatives. CAMA is a platform for corporations working in Africa to share best practices, create new partnerships and gain visibility for malaria control efforts across the continent. CAMA companies both lead and support innovative malaria prevention, control and treatment activities and collectively deploy millions of dollars to programs that serve the needs of malaria-affected people and communities. CAMA also provides a forum for business to engage with and build relations with malaria-focused government and civil society stakeholders. CAMA is a membership-based Alliance currently comprised of companies and institutions. Learn how you can join CAMA at www.gbchealth.org. Or, contact us to see how your organization can become an official CAMA Partner.

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