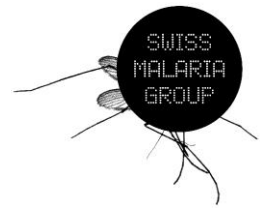


# ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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## President's letter

2020 has been an unseen and unprecedented year for everyone. The COVID-19 pandemic took the world by storm and left no one untouched. Many states faced the double burden of having to combat the Corona virus and endemic diseases such as malaria simultaneously.

Meanwhile, the effect of COVID-19 on the fight against malaria does not seem to be as devastating as expected. This is also due to the commitment of the members of the Swiss Malaria Group. While the pandemic raged and moved other topics out of the public spotlight, they continued to engage in various measures to maintain access to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of malaria

COVID-19 also impressively illustrated the need of strong health systems and international cooperation in order to deal with infectious and other diseases. These were the underlying themes of the Swiss Malaria Group's activities in 2020. The campaign for World Malaria Day, the TV-spot with our ambassador Marcel Bieri, the parliamentary event and the technical exchange all revolved around the following questions: How can we harness our Swiss malaria knowhow to cope with other global health challenges such as COVID-19? And how can Switzerland contribute to the strengthening of global health systems?

While treating these questions, we have again unveiled the enormous potential of using the expertise of Switzerland in the fight against malaria as a blueprint for other areas of global health. This becomes even more relevant in light of the current pandemic.



COVID-19 has raised awareness to the threats of communicable diseases among the Swiss population and people worldwide. However, for many people, the scenario of losing a beloved person to a disease is an everyday reality. This shows that the work of the Swiss Malaria Group and its members is more important than ever.

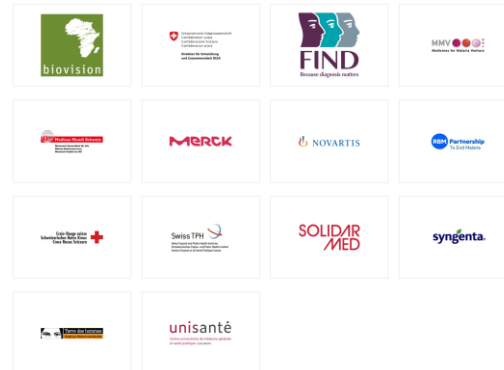
On behalf of the Swiss Malaria Group, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the success of the association in this extraordinary year. Together with our members and partners, we will continue to provide Swiss leadership against malaria and thereby engage for the health and wellbeing of all people worldwide.

Sincerely,  
Christian Lengeler  
President Swiss Malaria Group

# Networking and organisational development

In 2020, the Swiss Malaria Group strengthened its function as a multi-stakeholder partnership, *inter alia* with the following activities: at the general assembly, its members jointly discussed operational focal points to implement the Swiss Malaria Group's strategy 2020-23 and explored venues for the organisational development of the association. The network of main Swiss stakeholders in the fight against malaria was also fortified through bilateral talks, board meetings and the technical exchange, in which public and private actors, academia, PDPs and civil society were represented.

Moreover, the year 2020 was marked by changes in the secretariat: the long-standing Executive Secretary Carole Küng left the association to take on new professional challenges. The Swiss Malaria Group would like to thank Carole Küng for her great engagement to increase Swiss commitment in the fight against malaria and wishes her all the best for the future!



# Advocacy

## Parliamentary event in Bern



Together with Medicus Mundi Switzerland (MMS), the Swiss Alliance against Neglected Tropical Diseases (SANTD) and the Parliamentary Intergroup Switzerland-Africa, the Swiss Malaria Group organised a parliamentary event in September 2020. The theme of the event was “Lessons learned from COVID-19: the Swiss contribution to health system strengthening worldwide”.

The COVID-19 pandemic shows the world that pathogens do not stop at national borders and highlights how dangerous gaps in medical care can be. In this vein, strong health systems around the world would help addressing current and future pandemics more quickly.

Parliamentarians were invited to jointly analyse and discuss with experts the consequences of COVID-19 for international health cooperation and to reflect the contribution of Switzerland to the strengthening of health systems worldwide.

### Speakers:

Christian Lengeler, President SMG, Head of Unit Health Interventions, Swiss TPH  
 Christian Frutiger, Head of Global Cooperation, SDC

René Stäheli, President MMS and SANTD  
 Jutta Reinhard-Rupp, Head Global Health Institute Merck



## Parliamentary study tour postponed



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### EINLADUNG PARLAMENTARIERREISE

Globale Gesundheit und Malaria, Mozambique 4.-11. Juli 2020



#### ZIEL DER REISE

Bilden Sie sich im zunehmend gewichtigeren Thema der globalen Gesundheit weiter und lernen Sie an praktischen Beispielen kennen, wie die Schweiz diese durch multisektorale Partnerschaften fördert. Die Reise ermöglicht eine kritische Auseinandersetzung mit der schweizerischen Entwicklungszusammenarbeit im Bereich Gesundheit und zeigt wie die Schweizer Erfolgsgeschichte in der Malaria bekämpfung fort-geschrieben werden kann.

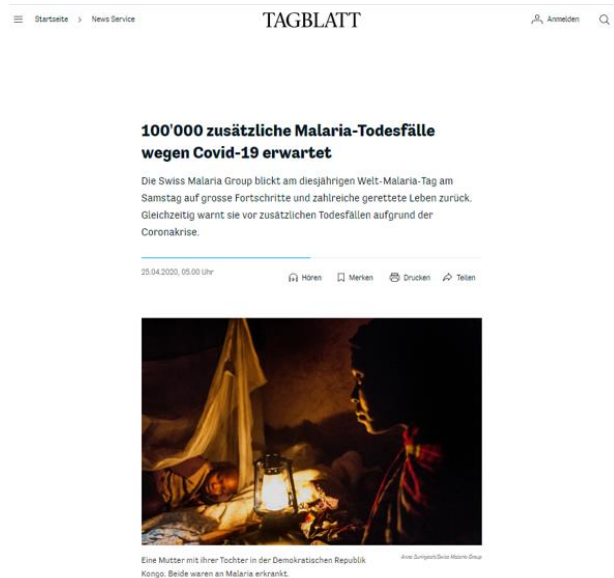
#### KURZINFORMATION ZUR REISE

<b>Reisedatum/Flug</b>	<b>Samstag 4. Juli -Samstag 11. Juli 2020 (Ankunft CH am 12. Juli)</b>
<b>Kostenbeteiligung</b>	Gemäss den neuen Richtlinien müssen Parlamentarier und Parlamentarier-innen selbst für Flug- und Hotelkosten aufkommen. Rechnen Sie mit Flug-kosten um 2000-2500 CHF sowie Hotelkosten von 150 CHF die Nacht. Die Swiss Malaria Group übernimmt die gesamte Reisekoordination, den Transport und die Verpflegung vor Ort.
<b>Voranmeldung Reise (Interessensbekundung)</b>	<b>Bis 6. Januar 2020 zuhänden Carole Küng (Platzzahl limitiert)</b> ckueng@swissmaliargroup.ch; Tel. +41 (0)61 383 18 13

The Swiss Malaria Group invited parliamentarians to participate in a study tour to Mozambique in July 2020 to reflect on the Swiss malaria and global health engagement as well as to see practical examples of how Switzerland promotes global health through multi-sectoral partnerships. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the related unpredictabilities, the parliamentary study tour had to be postponed.

# Public relations

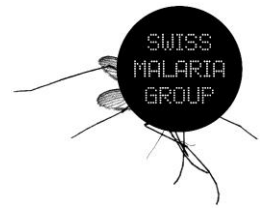
## World Malaria Day



The World Malaria Day 2020 was marked by major advances in the fight against malaria, with more than 7 million lives saved and over 1 billion cases prevented in the last two decades. At the same time, COVID-19 threatened this progress. The overburdening of health systems caused by COVID-19 posed the risk of a massive increase in malaria infections and deaths. In its [press release "Urgent action is critical to save lives"](#), the Swiss Malaria Group therefore called for global action against COVID-19 to protect health systems and ensure they continue to function for the population. At the same time, these measures should not restrict access to life-saving prevention, diagnosis and treatment of major diseases such as HIV and malaria, nor slow down the progress gained over the years. The Swiss Malaria Group emphasised that Switzerland's commitment is central.



In a second press release "[Starkes Schweizer Engagement wichtiger denn je](#)" the Swiss Malaria Group announced its newly appointed ambassador, the Swiss wrestler and teacher, Marcel Bieri. The news that the strongest teacher in Switzerland is committed in the fight against malaria was taken up very well by the Swiss media and resulted in interviews with 20 Minuten, Blick.ch and Blick TV.



On Social Media, the Swiss Malaria Group launched a small campaign around World Malaria Day with a short [video message](#) that every two minutes a child dies of malaria and that therefore the fight against this disease must be continued even during the COVID-19 pandemic. The campaign was accompanied by various background information on malaria as well as links to interviews and press releases.

## Campaign launch: World Mosquito Day



On the occasion of the World Mosquito Day on 20 August 2020, the Swiss Malaria Group launched its new campaign with ambassador Marcel Bieri. The professional TV spot shows the strong Swiss wrestler fighting against the deadliest enemy of mankind. With movements that are elegant yet painstaking, the Swiss Malaria Group ambassador tries to catch the malaria mosquito in the sawdust. The mission of this campaign was to raise awareness of the importance of Swiss contribution in the fight against malaria to the wider Swiss public.

The TV spot was aired on SRF 1 and SRF 2 for over a week and on social media the TV spot was accompanied with interviews, background information, making-of videos etc.

Overall the campaign was very well received. An estimated 2'353'072 viewers have seen the TV spot on the television. In addition, 1'239'169 impressions were reached on social media covering Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter and Youtube.



## Overview media work



Front Coronavirus Schweiz #WIRTSCHAFTSZUKUNFT US-Wahlen Regionen Ausland Mehr v

Resultiert 28.04.2020 10:53

**«Ich hoffe, wir lernen alle aus dieser Krise»**

Heute mit dem Schwinger Marcel Bieri. Der 25-jährige Zuger holte sich 2019 vor Helmpublikum einen eidgenössischen Kranz. Bieri verdient sein Geld als Lehrer.

Adrian Hüsliker

### Swiss Malaria Group media releases 2020:

The new coronavirus overburdens health systems and threatens the progress achieved in malaria in the past twenty years: [Eine Krise verdrängt die andere: Corona und der Kampf gegen Malaria und HIV](#)

World Malaria Day 2020 is marked by major advances in the fight against malaria, with more than 7 million lives saved and over 1 billion cases prevented in the last two decades. At the same time, COVID-19 threatens this progress and immediate action is required to save lives:

- [World Malaria Day 2020: Urgent action is critical to save lives](#)
- [Welt-Malaria-Tag 2020: Sofortiges Handeln ist entscheidend, um Leben zu retten](#)
- [Journée mondiale du paludisme 2020 : Il est urgent d'agir pour sauver des vies](#)

The Swiss Malaria Group launches its campaign with malaria ambassador Marcel Bieri and demonstrates that Swiss commitment in the fight against malaria is crucial to save lives:

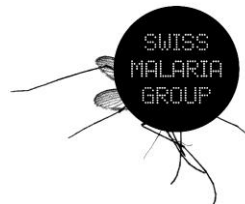
- [Zweikampf im Sägemehl: Stärkster Lehrer der Schweiz schwingt gegen den tödlichsten Feind der Menschheit](#)

### Media coverage campaign:

- [Aargauer Zeitung](#)
- [www.persoendlich.com](#)
- [www.innerschweizonline.ch](#)
- [www.horizont.net](#)
- [www.werbewoche.ch](#)

### Media coverage World Malaria Day:

- [Aargauer Zeitung](#)
- [St. Galler Tagblatt](#)
- [Solothurner Zeitung](#)
- [Badener Tagblatt](#)



- [Oltner Tagblatt](#)
- [Grenchner Tagblatt](#)
- [Limmattaler Zeitung](#)

### More media coverage:


- NZZ, 23. April 2020: [«In ganz Afrika gibt es höchstens 500 Beatmungsgeräte», sagt ein Malaria-Experte. Doch die grosse Katastrophe in Afrika ist nicht Covid-19](#)
- Rundschau, 20. Mai 2020: [Afrika und das Virus – Nach Ebola kommt Corona](#)

Startseite > Wissenschaft **Neue Zürcher Zeitung** Anmelden

### «In ganz Afrika gibt es höchstens 500 Beatmungsgeräte», sagt ein Malaria-Experte. Doch die grosse Katastrophe in Afrika ist nicht Covid-19

In Europa dominiert Sara-CoV-2 die Schlagzeilen. In Afrika dürfte nicht das Virus die meisten Todesopfer verursachen, sondern Kollateralschäden, erklärt der Malaria-Experte Christian Lengeler.

Alan Wobiler  
24.04.2020, 05:30 Uhr



«Wenn Sie aufhören, gegen Malaria anzukämpfen, schreien die Fallzahlen innerhalb von sechs bis zwölf Monaten hoch», sagt der Malaria-Experte Christian Lengeler.

Lengeler, NZZ | ETR

SRF Sendungen Live [Sendung verpasst?](#)



**CHRISTIAN LENGELER**  
Epidemiologe

## Social media

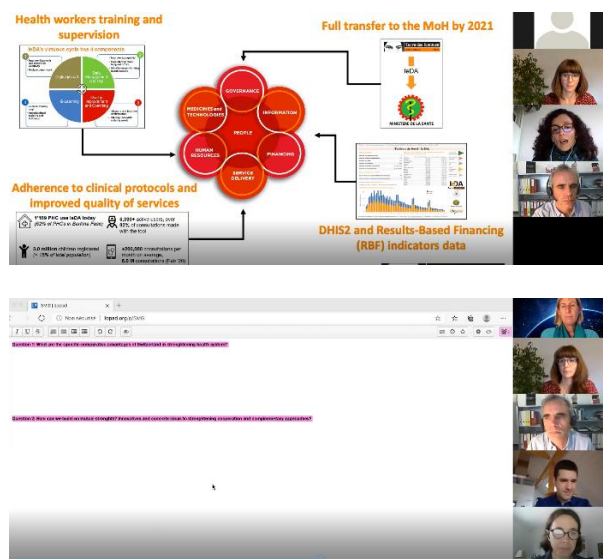


The main objective of our Social Media channels is to raise awareness and engage our community around the topic of malaria and especially the Swiss contribution in the fight against this treatable and preventable disease. There is a steady increase of followers on the channels, especially on Twitter and LinkedIn. Depending on the topic and target audience we focus on specific channels and communicate either in English, German and French.

In 2020 we have reached a total of 47'847 users with posts on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and 142'514 impressions on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

# Technical Exchange

## Technical Exchange 2020: Going virtual



“The Swiss contribution to strengthen global health systems – learnings from Swiss expertise on malaria and beyond” was the topic of the 2020 Technical Exchange on October 22.

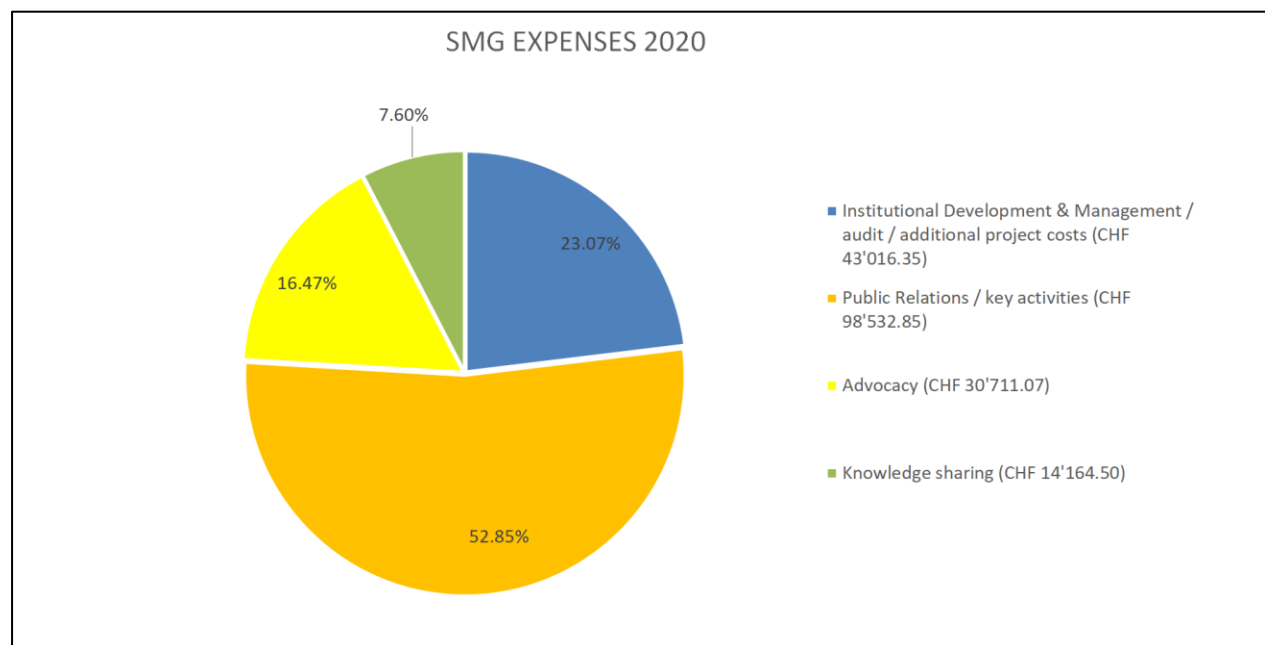
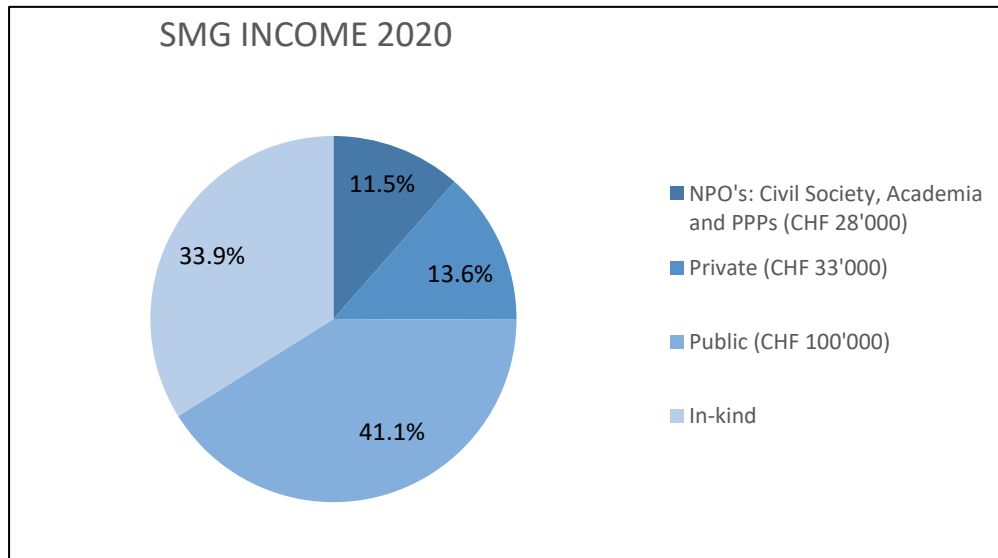
COVID-19 has shown the important role of strong health systems in fighting pandemics. Providing uninterrupted routine services is crucial during such times, and hence the quality and resilience of health services is even more important during a crisis. Shared knowledge among different sectors and many partners, as well as practical experience are essential to better prepare for future health crises. The goal of this meeting was to pool our Swiss experience in the national and international health sector to identify interventions that contribute to reaching Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

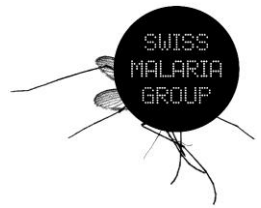
Normally the Technical Exchange is a face-to-face meeting where members and partners would come together to exchange and network, but due to the pandemic it was the first time that it was held virtually.

Presentations from the Technical Exchange can be accessed [here](#).

# Financials

The Swiss Malaria Group closed its financial year on a solid basis. The overall income in 2020 was 161'000.00 CHF (without in-kind contributions). The overall expenses amounted to 186'424.77 CHF. The final account closes with a deficit of -25'424.77 CHF, which is covered by the organisation's capital.





# Thank you!

We would like to thank everyone, from our Swiss Malaria Group members to our partners and friends, for their continued support in our work and for the excellent collaboration, even and especially in times of the current pandemic. We are looking forward to working with you in the new year towards a healthy and malaria-free world.

## Imprint

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