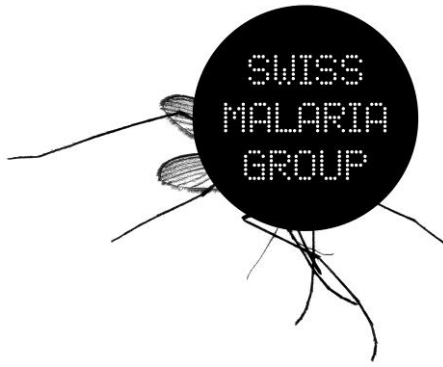


# SWISS MALARIA GROUP (SMG)

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

## CONTENT

1. Background.....	2
2. Organisational Development.....	2
2.1 Foundation of the Swiss Malaria Group Association .....	2
2.2 External Evaluation and Management Response, June 2015 .....	2
2.2.1 Leadership of the SMG .....	3
2.2.2 Ownership of Member Organisations .....	3
2.3 SMG Board Meeting and Retreat .....	4
3. Public Relations and Advocacy .....	5
3.1 2015: Parliamentary study tour to Tanzania / Parliamentarian Group on Global Health .....	5
3.1.1 Results of the Study Tour .....	5
3.1.2 Follow-Up Meeting Parliamentarian Study Tour.....	6
3.1.3 Results of the Follow-Up Meeting to the Parliamentarian Study Tour.....	6
3.1.4 Next Steps & Follow-Up Parliamentarians – Towards Strategic Advocacy .....	6
3.2 Celebration of World Malaria Day 2015 in the Museum of Natural History in Basel .....	7
3.2.1 Results of World Malaria Day 2015 in Basel.....	7
3.3 Further PR and Advocacy Activities 2015.....	7
3.3.1 SMG at SDC Annual Conference, 22 <sup>nd</sup> of August, 2015 .....	7
3.3.2 SMG at ECTMIH 2015, 6 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> of September, 2015.....	8
3.3.3 Letter of Swiss Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter to SMG: Invitation of WHO Director Dr. Margaret Chan.....	8
3.3.4 SMG Letter to the RBM Board and Transition Oversight Committee .....	8
4. Technical Exchange 2015 .....	9
5. Financial Statement.....	10



## 1. BACKGROUND

The Swiss Malaria Group was founded in 2007 and operated as a rather loose group, mainly focused on activities around World Malaria Day. In 2013, the group decided to step into a process of organisational development. As a result, the Swiss Malaria Group secretariat was established in August 2014 thanks to a 1.5 years financing contract with the Swiss Development Cooperation.

## 2. ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The organisational development of the Swiss Malaria Group is on track. This year we founded the SMG Association, adopted a membership contribution model and received very positive feedback from an external evaluation.

### 2.1 FOUNDATION OF THE SWISS MALARIA GROUP ASSOCIATION

On April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2015 the Swiss Malaria Group Association has been formally founded during the constituent general assembly. SMG President Susanna Hausmann (SDC) and SMG board member Christian Lengeler signed the statutes. Within the subsequent months, members committed to contribute towards the association in terms of in kind contributions and financing according to the adopted membership contribution model.

The following representatives were elected to the SMG board with equal representation of all groups:

- *Public sector/ international organisations:* Susanna Hausmann (SDC) as the SMG President, Silvia Ferazzi (RBM)
- *PDP's:* Jaya Banerji/ Christina do Paço, MMV
- *Academics:* Christian Lengeler, Swiss TPH/ Blaise Genton, CHUV; Deputy: Eric Huber, Swiss TPH
- *NGOs:* Karolin Pfeiffer, Solidarmed
- *Private sector:* Dirk Ziegler, Novartis Malaria Initiative/ Julie Morrow, Novartis Foundation

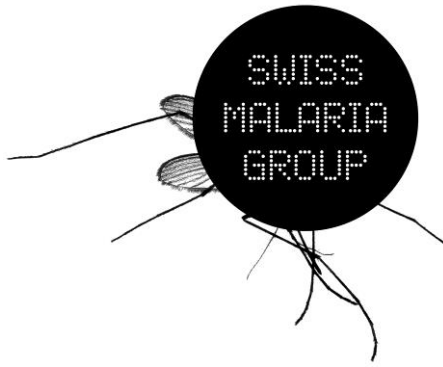
### 2.2 EXTERNAL EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT RESPONSE, JUNE 2015

Bertha Camacho of 'Skat Consulting' was contracted to evaluate the new SMG secretariat after one year of implementation. The building-up of the 40%-Secretariat includes the formation of a definite organizational structure and design and implementation of a strategic plan for enhanced activities of the SMG in the fight against malaria.

In its management response, the SMG board and its Executive Secretariat stated to be pleased that the external evaluation is very positive and encouraging to continue on the path taken. Both board and secretariat highly value the report as it considers the specific demands of a network and accurately reflects the view of the members.

The main results of the external evaluation are:

- **It is important and very relevant to have a multistakeholder group on malaria in Switzerland, not**



only to raise awareness about malaria, but also to exchange technical knowledge and expertise.

- The Swiss Malaria Group provides members with clear opportunities for networking, for establishing new contacts and partnerships, for sharing information in a structured way, for learning from different approaches, and for exchanging knowledge and experiences with other organisations working on malaria in Switzerland.
- Member organisations can be better known and their work can become more visible in the Swiss context through the SMG.
- The **value added of the SMG fits very well the goals of the group**. As long as this continues, the work of the SMG will remain relevant. It is thus important to continue developing mechanisms to further enhance the value added perceived by members.

The evaluation acknowledges the large development of the group in terms of shown commitment, institutionalisation, strategy and according activities. The leadership is very well established. People value the leadership role of the president and the steering group (now board).

The following comments emphasize this:

- “The SMG has evolved and it is headed in the right direction”
- “It is a work in progress; however, in the past months, we have gone a step forward”
- “In general, the progress is enormous and positive”

### 2.2.1 LEADERSHIP OF THE SMG

The current structure of the Swiss Malaria Group, even if it is new, is working well and it is more professional than it was in the past.

The leadership functions and roles of the SMG are well defined and are filled by committed individuals. The **Board** is small and functions in an efficient, transparent and open way. Good leadership practice is observed at the SMG.

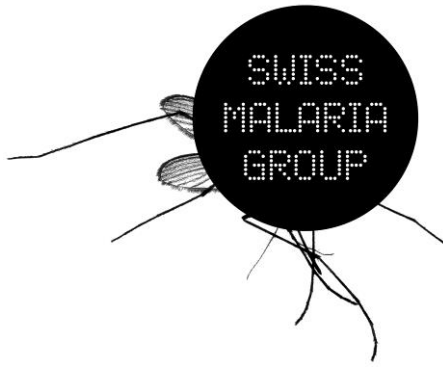
The fact that the SMG is hosted by MMS as a member organization proves to be a positive solution. The Executive Secretariat is important for better defining and realising the goals and the strategy of the SMG and also for formalising the SMG. In order for the SMG to move forward and continue realising its goals, it is important to **keep the Executive Secretariat**, since it is also fulfilling its role in an effective, efficient and inclusive manner.

### 2.2.2 OWNERSHIP OF MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

The SMG is a very heterogeneous group and member organisations have very different approaches, which might even be divergent. The fact that this heterogeneous group has come together under a common goal and with the spirit of learning from each other is what gives the SMG a great potential for success.

Members perceive a value added from the SMG, which is a key factor towards ensuring commitment to the activities and goals of the SMG.

It is important to keep the group as it is in terms of membership. The SMG unites the most important



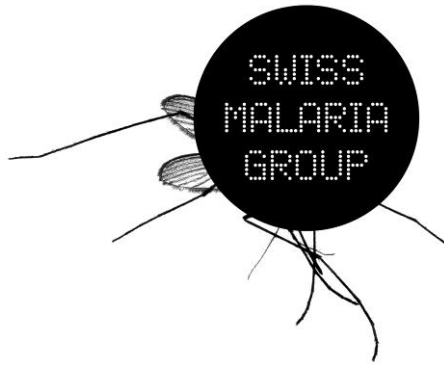
players; maybe one or the other company could join, but for the most part, all sectors are well represented. Expanding the remit and the membership can be a point of discussion in the future, once the SMG has consolidated.

### 2.3 SMG BOARD MEETING AND RETREAT

On 4<sup>th</sup> of November 15, the SMG board came together for a very productive board meeting and retreat in Gurten Kulm. These were the main points of discussions:

- **Formation of a Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) group & possibilities to coordinate with SMG:** A group of organisations advocating for NTDs in Switzerland constitutes itself. The question was, if we should open up the SMG to NTDs. Ingrid Mason (IM) was invited to talk about NTDs and possible cooperation with SMG. SMG is open to discussion of including NTDs in some way. There is no interest in having more and competing groups. The SMG Board welcomes a continuous dialogue on future collaboration.
- **Decision to write an SMG letter to the RBM Board** and the transition oversight committee to highlight the importance of a constituency based new board and for the secretariat to be kept in Geneva as a Hub of Global Health. GTS and AIM are the guiding strategies.
- **Synergies with Medicus Mundi Switzerland: Parliamentary Group on Global Health**
- Planning for **WMD 2016** and involvement of all members to invite and communicate the event jointly
- Discussion of key messages for a **joint declaration for WMD 16** with the parliamentary group on global health
- **Swiss business leaders against Malaria Initiative:** Basic idea: Reach out to other Swiss industries active in endemic countries in order for them to involve the community of their staff in malaria control. An informative kick-off shall take place in 2016.





### 3. PUBLIC RELATIONS AND ADVOCACY

Several activities have been carried out by SMG in 2015. This year's main focus was on advocacy. Our key activity has been our parliamentary study tour to Tanzania.

#### 3.1 2015: PARLIAMENTARY STUDY TOUR TO TANZANIA / PARLIAMENTARIAN GROUP ON GLOBAL HEALTH



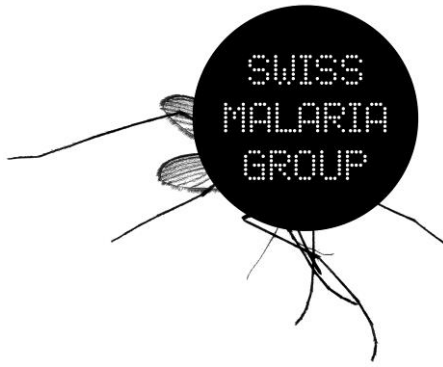
In December 2014 the Swiss Malaria Group sent a **letter of invitation to all Swiss parliamentarians** to join us for the SMG parliamentary study tour to Tanzania. In the same letter, **we announced the formation of the parliamentarian group on global health**, to be coordinated by Medicus Mundi Switzerland with a strong link to SMG.

In April 2015, seven parliamentarians representing the complete political spectrum visited projects of SMG members in Tanzania. Prof. Marcel Tanner guided the study tour allowing for a deep understanding of Swiss health development cooperation and malaria engagement. In addition, parliamentarians profited from his excellent know-how of local culture and personal network. Representatives of the Swiss Malaria Group members joined the tour as well in order to give specific inputs on local projects. Thanks to the great engagement and coordination of all involved SMG members, we were able to convince the parliamentarians of our engagement and found committed ambassadors for building up our advocacy work.

##### 3.1.1 RESULTS OF THE STUDY TOUR

The main goal of the study tour to establish links to the national parliament as a basis for building-up our advocacy work has been fulfilled. In summary, the study tour led to the following results:

- Committed ambassadors within the national parliament
- Media work with articles in NZZ & Le temps
- Theses paper for follow-up as a basis for a joint declaration on WMD 16
- Follow-up meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2015 (cf. following chapter)



### 3.1.2 FOLLOW-UP MEETING PARLIAMENTARIAN STUDY TOUR

Following up on our study tour to Tanzania, SMG met participating parliamentarians for a follow-up in the west wing of the federal palace on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015. The parliamentarians emphasized that it is very important to them for this study tour to be followed by clear action. In addition, the parliamentarians pointed out that there is a major threat of budget cuts for development. A strong Swiss development cooperation with endemic countries, for e.g. better health systems, is important to all SMG members – also those not funded by the Swiss government. Therefore, there is an urgent need for advocacy. An opportunity is seen in convincing especially right wing parliamentarians of the economic benefits of development cooperation.



### 3.1.3 RESULTS OF THE FOLLOW-UP MEETING TO THE PARLIAMENTARIAN STUDY TOUR

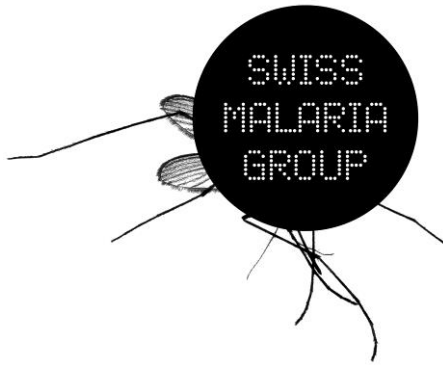
The following are results of the follow-up meeting of the parliamentary study tour to Tanzania on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015:

- Further action will be channelled through the new parliamentary group on global health (to be founded on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016; cf. below) coordinated by Medicus Mundi Switzerland (MMS). As the SMG secretariat is hosted at MMS, a close collaboration is guaranteed.
- Opportunity to organise an inter-parliamentary meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 together with the “Intergruppe parlementaire Suisse-Afrique” and the Swiss African Business Circle, inviting parliamentarians and ambassadors. Title of the event: **Medicines for Africa : How the pharmaceutical industry, research institutions and Swiss development actors join forces**; with key notes by Swiss TPH or SMG NGO’s (tbc), MMV CEO David Reddy, DNDI CEO Bernard Pécoul
- Together with the parliamentarians, SMG will prepare a declaration for World Malaria Day 2016 (based on thesis paper)

### 3.1.4 NEXT STEPS & FOLLOW-UP PARLIAMENTARIANS – TOWARDS STRATEGIC ADVOCACY

In order to maintain a successful relationship with the group of parliamentarians, the following steps will be taken:

- Ongoing formation of a strong group of “Global Health Friends” in parliament
- Continuous collaboration and involvement in SMG activities
- Take this as an entry point for addressing politicians who are rather sceptical to the topic.
- Target group longer-term: sceptical politicians and decision makers



### 3.2 CELEBRATION OF WORLD MALARIA DAY 2015 IN THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY IN BASEL

In order to follow-up locally on the parliamentary study tour, we invited Marina Carobbio, member of the national parliament to publicly celebrate World Malaria Day in the Museum of Natural History in Basel. The event was opened by a speech of the Cantonal Councillor Lukas Engelberger, head of the health department, followed by a presentation of Prof. Dr. Marcel Tanner, and a panel discussion. Afterwards, a broader public joined for a guided walk through the museum's Malaria exhibition.



On the occasion of WMD 2015, the Swiss Malaria Group presented the film: Malaria-voices around the world. The film and its social media short versions have been produced with the help of MMV. The film has been shared globally via social media in August 2015.

#### 3.2.1 RESULTS OF WORLD MALARIA DAY 2015 IN BASEL

The collaborative effort to celebrate a successful World Malaria Day 2015 in the Museum of Natural History in Basel produced the following results:

- Media work with article in Tageswoche
- Production of Malaria film together with MMV. The short versions have been viewed over 1000 times in total through the SMG Facebook site.

### 3.3 FURTHER PR AND ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES 2015

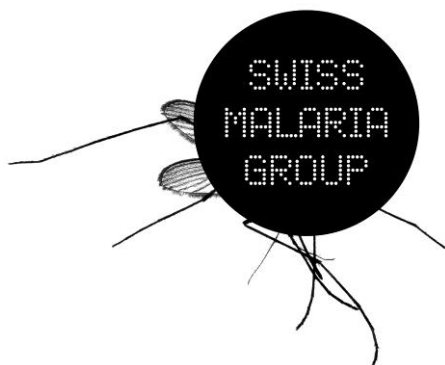
SMG participated at the following further events and got involved in activities mentioned below.

#### 3.3.1 SMG AT SDC ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 22<sup>ND</sup> OF AUGUST, 2015

SMG was present with a booth at the annual development conference 2015, which hosted more than 1000 participants.



<https://www.eda.admin.ch/deza/en/home/news/events/annual-conferences/Annualconference.html>



### 3.3.2 SMG AT ECTMIH 2015, 6<sup>TH</sup>-10<sup>TH</sup> OF SEPTEMBER, 2015



SMG was present at ECTMIH conference 2015 with almost 2000 participants.

SDC Director Manuel Sager mentioned SMG as a relevant multistakeholder initiative in his ECTMIH opening speech.

In addition, SMG was present at the booths of its members DNDi, Novartis, Roll Back Malaria and Medicus Mundi with a little mosquito net installation. People loved the new organic SMG chocolates from Ghana.

<http://www.ectmihbasel2015.ch/ectmih2015/home.html>

*SMG: Catch a mosquito!*

### 3.3.3 LETTER OF SWISS FEDERAL COUNCILLOR DIDIER BURKHALTER TO SMG: INVITATION OF WHO DIRECTOR DR. MARGARET CHAN

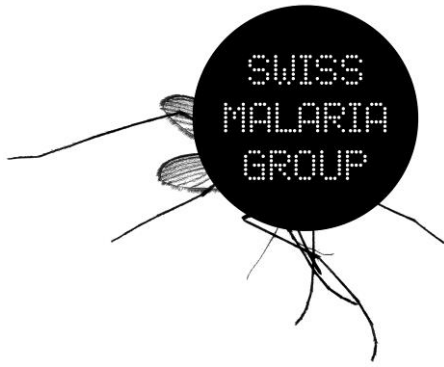
The Swiss Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter responded to our invitation for WMD 2016. He highlights the importance of the Swiss contribution in the fight against Malaria and recognizes the strong message the work of SMG provokes with its joint action of the public, private and civil society (compare letter in the attachment, in French). For the moment being, he confirms his interest to take part at our summit next year (if possible, still to be confirmed). At the same time, he send out the joint invitation of himself and the Swiss Malaria Group to WHO Director Dr. Margaret Chan.



### 3.3.4 SMG LETTER TO THE RBM BOARD AND TRANSITION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

By December 1<sup>st</sup>, the RBM secretariat was closed. This November, SMG wrote a letter to the RBM Board and transition oversight committee. Together, we encouraged a smooth transition to a new real partnership based in Geneva, with formal endemic country representation in its governance structure. On 11<sup>th</sup> Dec., the RBM Board has decided to build up a new board with strong representation of constituencies, and likely to remain in Geneva.





## 4. TECHNICAL EXCHANGE 2015



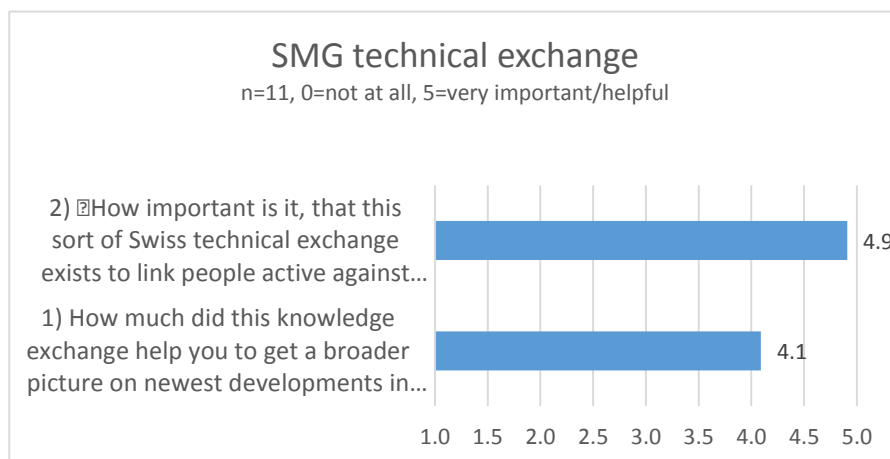
The Swiss Malaria Group Technical Exchange "The Future of Swiss Engagement against Malaria" took place on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. According to the feedback given in a brief survey after the event, the participants stated that this sort of Swiss technical exchange is very useful to link people active against Malaria (4.9 of 1=not useful to 5=very useful cf. graph below). In addition, participants found the exchange helpful to get a broader picture on the current trends in

Malaria research (4.1 of 1=not helpful to 5=very helpful). Participants gave the qualitative feedback that it was very good to see how Switzerland is involved in the global fight against Malaria. According to them, it makes communication much easier to have all major stakeholders on site. It was perceived to be very important to have regular technical exchange meetings to make sure we all get a better understanding on what the relevant stakeholders are working on in the field of malaria.

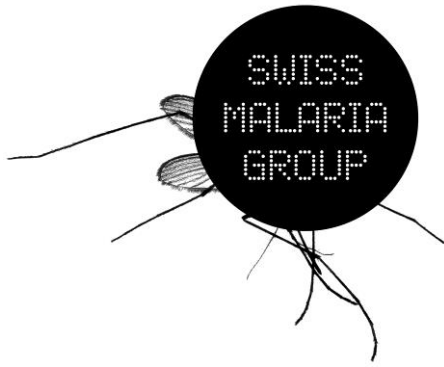
Some quotes summarise the event's benefits:

"It was very useful to get to know the members, understand their drivers and align on common goals – a wonderful exchange!"

**"The cross-cutting element of this was extremely useful. To hear the initiatives and challenges from the private and public sector, identify gaps and areas for synergy. Switzerland is uniquely positioned to achieve this due to its strength both in terms of the pharmaceuticals industry, academia (e.g. Swiss TPH) and PDPs."**



Graph: Summary of the results of the participant survey after the technical exchange (n=11, x: 1=not important/helpful; 5=very important/helpful)



As an input for future exchanges, it was asked to assess options for stronger synergies between the different SMG members. Methodically, a future technical exchange could include a more interactive session or a workshop. Joint presentations/panels from public and private entities around common initiatives could be interesting.

## 5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Please cf. separate financial statement (in preparation)