



World Mosquito Day

Thursday, 20 August 2020



Message from Dr. Prosper Chaki, Executive Director, PAMCA

Dear friends and colleagues,

I would like to take this opportunity to first wish everyone a very happy **World Mosquito Day!**

As a community, 2020 has challenged us in all facets of our life. Many of us have lost friends, colleagues and relatives due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, and our day to day lives have been hugely disrupted, forcing us to adapt to new norms. As a global health community, we have witnessed most countries on the African continent failing to accomplish their plans due the diversion of [precious/limited] resources and personnel, delays in vaccination plans and other lifesaving interventions.

I would first like to send my appreciation to all the frontline health workers that have tirelessly been at the service of the needy, we at PAMCA truly thank them and acknowledge their tremendous contribution. Despite the many challenges we face currently, one fact is indisputable; mosquitoes remain the world's most deadly animal, and are among the top 5 causes of death in Africa. I call upon all mosquito control experts, stakeholders and the general [public] community to stand united and never compromise the health of our people, families or selves. Let us stand steadfast in our commitments and stay strong against this deadly enemy.

To my fellow citizens of the world, I urge you to maintain sanitation practices, keep your surroundings clean and free from standing water, and utilise the tools and approaches available to keep up the fight against **mosquitoes**.

Mosquitoes have been fought successfully in the past through environmental management and these efforts lead to the elimination of malaria in Brazil, Panama Canal and the Zambian copper belt and many others, should not be an afterthought. We must learn from the past and recognise that humankind is capable not just of eliminating mosquito-borne diseases but also the mosquitoes that transmit them.

We are in a defining era, one that the world has been waiting for, where the elimination of mosquito-borne diseases from the globe is a possibility within our lifetime. This transformative ideal situation can only be achieved if we are determined, united and energized to develop and implement to scale smart, innovative solutions to [tackle/reduce] disease causing mosquitoes.

As I reflect on what motivates me to push forward, the main driver is always my frustration at the many beautiful lives that have unnecessarily gone to waste, some during their prime, and many tragically robbed of their life chances at birth. We have got to put a stop to this.

Are we the generation to leave this legacy for Africa? Yes! We at PAMCA are focused on our vision of an Africa free of vector-borne diseases and everything we do is focused on this end goal. We are committed to working with others to ensure that we create mosquito free zones, in order that millions of lives that would otherwise be lost are spared.

It's time we review our priorities and strategies, and mobilise more women and young talent who can lead the fight. We also need to strengthen systems and develop career paths that would allow our growing populace to effectively contribute to their own societies. The current pandemic has shone a strong light on our fragmented approach to scientific endeavour and programming, in developed as well as developing nations. On this World Mosquito Day in 2020. I take the opportunity to call for vector control programs in endemic countries to be fully integrated in order to optimize the scarce resources available.

Let us act smart and utilize the talents we have more wisely to beat the Mosquito.

Together we can turn the world into a better place to live.