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News: Yaoundé Declaration

- Recently, the Yaoundé Declaration marked a significant milestone in the fight against malaria, as health ministers from 11 African countries pledged to end malaria deaths.

Yaoundé Declaration

- Yaoundé Declaration was signed by the health ministers of 11 African countries with the highest burden of malaria, committing to accelerated action to end deaths from the malaria disease.
- It was signed at the Yaoundé conference, co-hosted by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Government of Cameroon.
- The conference gathered Ministers of Health, global malaria partners, funding agencies, scientists, civil society organizations, and other principal malaria stakeholders.
- The 11 countries that signed the declaration are: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania. These countries carry roughly 70% of the global malaria burden.

- They pledged to sustainably and equitably address the threat of malaria in the African region, which accounts for 95% of malaria deaths globally.
- They committed to provide stronger leadership and increased domestic funding for malaria control programmes; to ensure further investment in data technology; to apply the latest technical guidance in malaria control and elimination; and to enhance malaria control efforts at the national and sub-national levels.
- The ministers further pledged to increase health sector investments to bolster infrastructure, personnel, and programme implementation; to enhance multi-sectoral collaboration; and to build partnerships for funding, research, and innovation.
- In signing the declaration, they expressed their “unwavering commitment to the accelerated reduction of malaria mortality” and “to hold each other and our countries accountable for the commitments outlined in this declaration”.

Malaria

- Malaria is a mosquito-borne infectious disease that affects humans and other animals.
- It is caused by plasmodium.

- Symptoms of malaria include fever, tiredness, vomiting and headaches.
- These begin 10-15 days after being bitten by infected Mosquito.
- It is spread through Anopheles mosquito.
- The disease is widespread in the tropical and subtropical regions that exist in a broad band around the equator.
- This includes much of sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and Latin America.
- 25th of April has been declared as World Malaria Day by the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- World Malaria Day was first held in 2008. It was developed from Africa Malaria Day, which was an event that had been observed since 2001 by African governments.
- The theme for the year 2023 is “Time to deliver zero malaria: invest, innovate, implement”.
- Recently, the World Health Organisation (WHO) endorsed the world's first Malaria Vaccine Mosquirix in the hope that it will spur stalled efforts to curb the spread of the parasitic disease.