

## Supplementary Submission 5.2



Supplementary Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs,  
Defence and Trade,

### Human Rights Subcommittee

#### Inquiry into women and girls in the Indian Ocean Asia Pacific region

The Committee on Monday 3 November 2014 considered the need for and role of women's groups in advancing the enjoyment of human rights and social and economic advancement for women and girls in developing nations within the Indian Ocean – Asia Pacific region.

In my remarks to the Committee on behalf of Medicines for Malaria Venture, I noted the important role of women in family and community health particularly in relation to malaria prevention and treatment.

Within the broader context of the role of women in society, I would like to add MMV's support for to the importance of supporting women to undertake leadership roles, gain access to education and training, and to engage with leaders in government, industry and the community. Women's groups and NGO's offer a valuable avenue to achieve these objectives.

As I stated at the hearing one of the most important barriers to enhancing the human rights of women and girls in the Indian Ocean-Asia Pacific region is poor health status and in particular the impact of malaria on women and children.

Malaria-related mortality is highest in children under five years, pregnant women and newborns that have little say on public health priorities and expenditure. This group is a priority for MMV. Women's groups and NGOs such as Medicines for Malaria Venture are well placed to advocate for change, and to support women in practical ways to promote family and community health.

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