



Target audience blood testing

PROJECT BRIEF

Regional Integrated Vector Management Project

An initiative to assess and strengthen the ability of the community and health systems to better prevent the spread of vector-borne diseases and to improve recognition of symptoms and identification and notification of vector-borne disease outbreaks

Project outline

The purpose of this study is to develop an integrated approach to strengthen community and health system capacity to improve prevention, recognition, and reporting of malaria and other vector-borne diseases (such as dengue) through the community and community health workers. This study will be conducted in three South East Asia countries in which there are already substantial numbers of community health workers with expertise in addressing malaria; their role could potentially now be expanded to provide integrated vector management (a rational decision-making process for the optimal use of resources for vector control) services as well.

Vector-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue cause a major health burden in the South East Asia (SEA) Region. The World Health Organization promotes the principles and approaches set out in the strategic framework on integrated vector management (IVM) to improve the efficacy, cost-effectiveness and sustainability of vector control.

Both malaria and dengue are vector borne diseases with similarities in some

of their respective vector management strategies, for example larval control, use of insecticides, etc. However, there are key differences as well, and it is important to understand how those differences affect interventions. For example, malaria is typically seen in rural and forested areas and the vector primary bites at night. Dengue on the other hand, is transmitted by a day-biting vector that is closely associated with domestic environments. In areas where both are endemic, there is growing evidence of message and intervention confusion at the community level.

Thus, in areas that are co-endemic, integrated vector control behavioral change communications at the community level have the potential to identify misconceptions that could interfere with appropriate uptake of malaria control interventions as well as increase the efficiency of other vector-borne preventive measures at the community level (including dengue), helping to reduce transmission and overall disease burden. Well-adapted and well-targeted integrated vector control messages and strategies that address both diseases may

Country

Cambodia
Myanmar
Thailand

Donor

Department for International
Development/UKAID

Length of project

August 2013 to Mar 2014 (11 months)

Partners

Bureau of Vector Borne Disease (BVBD)
National Center for Parasitology,
Entomology and Malaria Control (CNM)
Myanmar Medical Association (MMA)
National Malaria Control Programme,
Myanmar
Vector Borne Disease Center (VBDC),
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therefore help ensure more efficient use of resources and enable community health workers to contribute to early identification and response not only to malaria but also dengue outbreaks.

And while across SEA, national programmes are in favor of IVM, there as yet has been limited opportunity to implement IVM at regional and local level. This innovative study will provide valuable findings on a promising IVM BCC (integrated vector management behavior change communication) dissemination approach, along with learnings on managing multiple vector borne diseases. These learnings will be used to support and strengthen the ability of the community and national health systems of Thailand, Myanmar and Cambodia to better prevent the spread of vector-borne diseases across the region.

Project objective

This regional proposal looks to assess, in Thailand, Myanmar and Cambodia, an expanded role for community health workers to (1) deliver effective IVM BCC interventions and (2) support notification of malaria and other vector borne disease (such as dengue) to the local health facilities.

In all three countries, the development of locally relevant IVM BCC messages will be conducted in multiple communities and in one health facility where there is co-endemic vector borne disease risk. Additionally, in all three countries a Positive Deviance (PD) approach will be used to identify existing model behaviours within their communities, then share and amplify those behaviors across the communities.

Finally, in Cambodia and Myanmar, this project will explore the potential role of community health workers to serve as an early alert mechanism at the community level for suspected dengue outbreaks, working through the existing meetings in which the health workers already visit their corresponding health facility and report malaria cases to the health facility personnel.

Project aims

This regional proposal looks to assess, in Thailand, Myanmar and Cambodia, an expanded role for community health workers to

1. deliver effective IVM BCC interventions and
2. support notification of malaria and other vector borne disease (such as dengue) to the local health facilities.

Specific objectives	Thailand	Myanmar	Cambodia
1. To better understand key challenges and misconceptions from community members as well as community health workers regarding malaria and other vector-borne diseases	✓	✓	✓
2. To develop appropriate IVM BCC messages on malaria and other vector borne diseases prevention measures and deliver them through community health workers to address vector borne diseases inclusively at the community level.	✓	✓	✓
3. To assess the improved knowledge, attitudes and practices for prevention of both malaria and other vector-borne diseases after introduction of integrated BCC interventions in the community		✓	
4. To improve early identification and notification of other vector borne diseases through the already existing Community Health Workers meetings at health facility level.	✓	✓	✓
5. To assess and strengthen the current surveillance system for dengue, in consultation with national dengue programmes, and to provide practical and feasible recommendations to strengthen the system at national and community levels			✓



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