



A team member visiting households during Malaria Indicator Survey in Myanmar

# PROJECT BRIEF

## Malaria Indicator Survey in Myanmar

The aim of the Malaria Indicator Survey is to provide national baseline data on malaria intervention coverage, malaria prevalence, population awareness and availability of malaria services in a representative sample of the population.

### Project outline

Malaria remains a leading cause of morbidity and mortality in Myanmar. The National Strategic Plan for Malaria Prevention and Control 2016-2020 highlights that, although considerable progress has been made over the past 10 to 15 years in reducing the malaria burden, it is still a major public health problem in the country.

To date, no malaria surveys have been conducted at a national scale in Myanmar to assess coverage of key malaria services. Efforts are being made to close this information gap with a national baseline survey which will provide data on overall malaria prevalence as well as current levels of access and coverage to key malaria control interventions.

To respond to this need, the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) is conducting a national Malaria Indicator Survey (MIS). Malaria Consortium has been designated the technical lead alongside partner Myanmar Medical Association. The Department of Medical Research (DMR) is a partner agency for the laboratory analysis. The results of this survey will:

- » help to prioritise malaria services more effectively to areas with the greatest malaria burden
- » provide baseline malaria data to support future assessments of the impact of all malaria-related activities nationwide, as well as for future strategic planning

#### Country

Myanmar (Nationwide)

#### Donor

President's Malaria Initiative/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Three Millennium Development Goal Fund

#### Length of project

October 2014 to December 2016

#### Partners

National Malaria Control Programme

Myanmar Medical Association

Department of Medical Research

University of Maryland Baltimore

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

Karan Health and Welfare Department

Rammonya Peace Foundation

Health Poverty Action

- » provide up-to-date information on malaria prevalence within each area of the country, enabling the Ministry of Health to update its geographical risk stratification data

The sampling frame for the MIS includes 92 townships, 145 village tracts, across four domains throughout Myanmar. The four domains have been defined based on Malaria assumed prevalence. Fourteen teams conducted the survey at the household level from August to October 2015, and data management and analysis began from October onwards. Final results are expected to be available by May 2016 with the expectation of being used in national elimination planning.

Malaria prevalence will be measured by both polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and serology at the DMR laboratories in Yangon.

## Project objectives

### Primary objective:

Determine the prevalence of malaria parasitemia (through PCR) among at-risk populations according to agreed risk strata.

### Secondary objectives:

1. Measure access, coverage and use of key malaria control and prevention interventions (including long lasting insecticidal nets, diagnostics, and treatment).
2. Measure the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of key target populations with regard to malaria prevention and control.
3. Compare and investigate malaria risk factors across additional malaria diagnostic tools and other transmission metrics (e.g. malaria rapid diagnostic tests and serology)
4. Provide information on core indicators for the NMCP and other key stakeholders to measure progress against existing baseline.



MIS surveyed team provides consent forms to each villager prior to interviewing them about their knowledge on malaria



MIS survey team collects blood samples from a selected household and provides malaria rapid diagnostic test diagnosis



Blood samples are collected and sent to the Department of Medical Research for further laboratory analysis

### This project supports efforts to deliver:

- ✓ Malaria control
- ✓ Capacity building
- ✓ M&E and surveillance
- ✓ Operational research
- ✓ Resistance management



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