

Building capacity for malaria elimination in southern Cambodia

Strengthening the technical and programme management capacity of provincial health departments, operational districts and health centres

Background

In Cambodia, provincial health departments and operational districts are responsible for delivering malaria prevention and control services at their respective levels, with the coordination and support of the National Malaria Control Programme. They oversee local health centres, as well as a network of village malaria workers (VMWs) and mobile malaria workers (MMWs) who diagnose and treat malaria at the community level, undertake surveillance activities and promote behaviour change.

In pre-elimination provinces, it is important that provincial health departments, operational districts and health centres have the capacity to deliver effective malaria prevention and control services, especially to hard-to-reach and high-risk groups such as those living or working in forested areas. Failure to reach such groups threatens to undermine progress made towards achieving the National Malaria Control Programme's elimination targets: 2020 for *Plasmodium falciparum* and 2025 for *P. vivax*.

Country

Cambodia

Donor

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Length of project

December 2015 – December 2020

Partners

National Center for Parasitology Entomology and Malaria Control

Kampot, Kep and Takeo's provincial health departments

Project outline and objectives

The Regional Artemisinin Initiative 2 Elimination (RAI2E) project will improve existing malaria prevention and control services and build the technical and programme management skills of provincial health department, operational district and health centre staff in the Kampot, Kep and Takeo provinces in southern Cambodia.

Activities

Malaria Consortium will:

- support provincial health departments and operational districts to train and supervise health centre staff and outreach workers (VMWs and MMWs) on community case management of malaria
- assist operational districts and health centres in planning for a mass long lasting insecticidal nets distribution campaign for beds and hammocks
- work with provincial health department and operational district staff to develop and deliver tailored social and behaviour change (SBC) interventions — including concerts, phone-in radio broadcasts and mobile theatre shows — to high-risk groups, and train supervisors to deliver one-on-one SBC messaging to VMWs
- strengthen surveillance and support the rollout of the national malaria information system by assisting operational district staff to train health centre workers and VMWs on real-time electronic reporting
- assist operational districts to integrate reporting accuracy checks into supervision visits and help them monitor incoming data, identify errors and check for incomplete reporting
- train provincial health department and operational district staff to use data to plan supervision visits, identify trends in malaria transmission and respond to outbreaks with targeted interventions
- provide formal training on compliance with Global Fund financial regulations and reporting for provincial health department and operational district staff
- assist health centres and operational districts to use an electronic mobile payment system to pay VMWs (incentives, travel costs, *per diems*, etc.)
- support provincial health departments and co-host a Provincial Malaria Elimination Committee meeting — with a focus on planning, managing and coordinating malaria elimination activities — attended by various provincial departments, civil society organisations, provincial and district authorities, and National Center for Parasitology Entomology and Malaria Control staff.

Figure 1: Locations of RAI2E projects in southern Cambodia




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Cover image: VMW performs a rapid diagnostic test. Credit: Peter Caton

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