



An in-depth interview with a migrant worker, Cambodia

PROJECT BRIEF

Innovative Malaria M&E, Research and Surveillance towards Elimination (IMMERSE)

The aim of this project is to improve malaria programming implementation in the Greater Mekong Sub-region and build an evidence platform capable of developing and evaluating operational research, surveillance and monitoring and evaluation activities

Project outline

Following significant reduction in the burden of malaria over the last decade in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), malaria elimination is being reconsidered as a feasible long-term goal. Several national malaria control programmes have endorsed National Malaria Strategic Plans for malaria elimination but lack clear guidance on the technical, operational and monitoring requirements for reaching this goal.

As malaria continues to decline in the region, intensive and sustained efforts remain imperative. In September 2013, Malaria Consortium began the Innovative Malaria M&E, Research and Surveillance towards Elimination (IMMERSE) project, a five-year initiative to continue strengthening monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and surveillance activities in the GMS.

Building on the success of the project's initial phase, IMMERSE aims to provide technical support and guidance to national programmes, to develop methodologies and tools for M&E and surveillance. The project also aims to test and evaluate innovative methods to guide transition from malaria control to pre-elimination and elimination in resistance containment in low transmission settings.

Country

Cambodia Thailand
Lao PDR Vietnam
Myanmar Yunnan, China

Donor

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Length of project

September 2013 – August 2018

Partners

ACTMalaria; Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network; Global Fund Health Poverty Action; Institute Pasteur Cambodia; London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine; Ministry of Public Health, Thailand; Ministry of Health, Vietnam; National Center for Parasitology, Entomology and Malaria Control, Cambodia; National Malaria Control Programs; Roll Back Malaria; Vector Borne Disease Control Program, Myanmar



A patient is checked for malaria drug resistance, Thailand

Working with partner organisations and Ministries of Health in the GMS (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and Yunnan Province in China), the project is developing a shared set of tools and evidence base on drug resistance, malaria diagnosis and treatment, and for operational research. It supports the implementation of health worker training, behaviour change communication, and strategic evidence-based planning and policy.

The project will undertake a number of key activities:

- » Operational research and evaluations of existing malaria control tools – such as operational facilities, programme implementation, rapid diagnostic tests and treatment adherence to increase knowledge of programme feasibility and provide baseline data for further research
- » Evaluate key interventions to assist in identifying effective malaria control and surveillance strategies and lessons for sharing, building an evidence base of operational research, surveillance and M&E approaches for national and subnational partners in the GMS
- » Assist the GMS national governments and partners strengthening drug resistance monitoring, disease surveillance and M&E capacity

Project objectives

The specific aims of the project are as follows:

- » **Develop and refine M&E and surveillance tools** in order to assess the impact of existing interventions, monitor the short-term malaria burden and transmission trends and inform programmes on when to move from control to elimination strategies
- » **Monitor artemisinin and artemisinin combination therapy resistance** using innovative approaches
- » **Conduct operational research** to assess country-specific feasibility of malaria active case detection interventions, evaluation of innovative delivery mechanisms to target hard to reach populations and point of care diagnostics
- » **Promote use of strategic available information** by local and national policy makers and programme planners to ensure information of strategic importance is disseminated and shared among practitioners in GMS and sub-Saharan Africa, and that best practices are harmonised in the region

This project supports efforts to deliver:

- ✓ Malaria control
- ✓ Health systems strengthening
- ✓ Behaviour change communication / Information, education, communication
- ✓ Operational research
- ✓ Capacity building / human resource development
- ✓ Monitoring and evaluation
- ✓ Policy change / advocacy
- ✓ Support for at-risk populations

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