



MALARIA CONSORTIUM ASIA



WHO WE ARE

The principal aim of Malaria Consortium is the prevention and treatment of disease, particularly but not exclusively malaria, among the poorest and most at risk. Malaria Consortium staff work in a variety of settings across Africa and Asia, using innovative strategies and approaches.

The organisation works to improve not only the health of the individual, but also the capacity of national health systems, which contributes towards poverty relief and improved economic prosperity.

Malaria Consortium Asia established its Regional Office in Bangkok, Thailand in 2007, in order to work more closely with governments, partner agencies, research institutions, and communities to ensure evidence-based decision-making and strategic planning are translated into effective implementation on the ground.

This is crucial in a region where major advances have been made to reduce the burden of malaria, but where the disease remains a serious problem to high risk populations. Furthermore, it is critical that progress to date is not lost, especially as countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Vietnam and the Yunnan province in China) could be at risk of resistance to artemisinin – the leading anti-malaria drug – which could affect gains in malaria control worldwide.

Malaria Consortium Asia provides technical assistance to countries in developing winning proposals for resource mobilisation in the GMS, such as with Global Fund Round 9 in Cambodia and Round 10 in Thailand.



WHAT WE DO

Malaria Consortium Asia provides technical support in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS)

MONITORING & EVALUATION

Malaria Consortium Asia supports countries and partners to put in place effective and evidence based malaria strategies, including national surveys in both Thailand and Cambodia. These results help national malaria programmes track the progress of malaria control, respond rapidly to outbreaks and avoid the consequences of drug resistance. Malaria Consortium Asia contributed to the development of a malaria indicator framework for the GMS and provides technical assistance to respective countries in the region.

RESPONDING TO RESISTANCE

Together with the national malaria programme of Thailand, the World Health Organization, and other partners, Malaria Consortium Asia is working to improve surveillance systems for the detection and follow-up of patients with delayed parasite clearance. This initiative requires a cross-border strategy which Malaria Consortium Asia has facilitated between governments. The organisation is also involved in containment in Myanmar.

OPERATIONAL RESEARCH

Malaria Consortium Asia has supported research in the GMS to fill knowledge gaps and ensure that strategies applied are evidencebased. Research focuses on migrant and mobile populations' knowledge, attitudes and practices, as well as their access to diagnosis and treatment. We have also developed a framework that prioritises the operational research needs and gaps for each country and that can be used as a tool for resource mobilization and planning.

BEHAVIOUR CHANGE COMMUNICATION

Malaria Consortium Asia uses Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) along the Thai-Cambodia border to improve the prevention and treatment of malaria. This includes developing culturally appropriate Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials. Malaria Consortium Asia also assists Thailand's national malaria programme to develop the tools to conduct evaluations of IEC materials.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Malaria Consortium Asia continues to strengthen the institutional capacity of the region's malaria programmes by contributing to the Asian Collaborative Training Network for Malaria (ACTMalaria) through curriculum development, facilitation and training. As many countries start focusing on pre-elimination and on targeting high risk groups more assertively, we are developing a regional monitoring and evaluation training and BCC training.



ARTEMISININ RESISTANCE CONTAINMENT



EVALUATING BCC MATERIALS & STRATEGIES IN THAILAND

Behaviour change communication (BCC) is an integral component of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation funded project to contain artemisinin resistant malaria parasites in South

East Asia in order to curb the spread of artemisinin-resistant malaria. BCC will help increase awareness and improve prevention and treatment seeking behaviours of communities.

Since the start of the Containment Project in 2009, Malaria Consortium has provided technical support to the national malaria programmes of Cambodia and Thailand in developing and evaluating harmonised BCC materials and strategies.

As part of this process, Malaria Consortium worked with the Thai Bureau of Vector Borne Diseases to develop qualitative evaluation tools, which were used in two provinces - Si Saket

and Pong Nam Ron - six months after the distribution of IEC/BCC materials and their effect on the population. Interviews and focus group discussions were conducted with community members with the aim of assessing the acceptability and appropriateness of IEC/BCC materials and to understand their effectiveness on the target audiences.

The evaluation found that malaria volunteers needed extensive communications

training in malaria prevention and control, and this was then organised by the National Malaria Programme.

Other recommendations included strategies to reach high risk populations who live in forest areas and are mobile. These findings will help inform Thailand's communication and national BCC strategies.



MALARIA CONSORTIUM ASIA

Multi-purpose Building (Room No. 805)
Faculty of Tropical Medicine,
Mahidol University, 420/6 Rajavidhi Road,
Phya Thai, Bangkok, Thailand 10400

MALARIA CONSORTIUM
London, UK

MALARIA CONSORTIUM
AFRICA
Kampala, Uganda

OTHER OFFICES
Cambodia
Ethiopia
Mozambique
Nigeria
South Sudan
Uganda
Zambia

EMAIL
info@malariaconsortium.org

WEBSITE
www.malariaconsortium.org

PHOTO CREDITS

Some photos Mimi Mollica

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