



Regular capacity building and training on malaria knowledge and surveillance is provided to VMWs

PROJECT BRIEF

Village malaria worker project: Prevention and control of malaria

The project aims to improve the malaria implementation programme in Western Cambodia – a key location for managing resistant malaria – and to strengthen the community health network in Pailin province.

Project outline

Pailin is a small province in Western Cambodia, 376 kilometers from Phnom Penh capital city, with a population of about 70,500. The province has a long border with Thailand and is surrounded with thick forests and a mountainous area with rugged roads that make access difficult. Pailin has been identified as a high risk malaria endemic area where artemisinin (an antimalarial drug) tolerance and resistance has emerged.

People living close to the forest are significantly at risk of malaria infection as they travel from their homes to work on farms or forests during the crop planting and harvesting seasons without proper knowledge on how to protect themselves from mosquito bites.

In 2009, there were 1,365 malaria cases confirmed in Pailin. Among these, the provincial health department recorded 82 patients in severe condition and two deaths. Since 2009, malaria case incidence rates in Pailin have reduced owing to containment interventions and the commitment of the government. However, the concern to contain artemisinin resistance still remains. Malaria Consortium has been supporting the government to control malaria in the area through malaria interventions and operational research.

The village malaria worker project, funded by the UK aid Programme Partnership Agreement aims to implement malaria activities with a specific focus on people at risk. This includes working closely with health centre and

Country

Cambodia

Donor

UK Government

Length of project

March 2014 to March 2016

Partners

National Center for Parasitology,
Entomology and Malaria Control /
Ministry of Health

Provincial Health Department of Pailin
Province



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Malaria Consortium and provincial health department staff provide capacity building to health center staff

Public Health Department staff and village malaria workers (VMWs) to strengthen their capacity to diagnose and provide early treatment on malaria. The results from this will be used as evidence for the next strategy development in malaria elimination.

Project objectives

The main objectives of the project are to:

- » Provide early rapid diagnosis and treatment of malaria to the residential population and ensure that every detected case will receive directly observed treatments properly.
- » Increase malaria awareness and educate the population on preventive measures in 114 villages and 45 mobile malaria workers in 45 farms in Pailin province.
- » Improve communication and collaboration with the provincial health department, health centres, other organisations working on malaria and private sector to develop and implement the malaria elimination strategy.

Activities

- » Day-to-day supervision to strengthen the capability of VMWs to be able to perform a malaria rapid diagnosis test (RDT) and provide treatment properly to comply with national guidelines.
- » Conduct a refresher training course on technical skills for VMWs to perform and read RDTs and develop their capacity to support the future strategy of the national programme in eliminating malaria.
- » Conduct a refresher training course on basic knowledge of malaria prevention and train the volunteers to provide malaria health education to communities.
- » Strengthen health worker capacity for malaria case management, including abilities to record and report new cases detected to the public health facility.
- » Organise regular monthly VMW meetings to collect malaria cases detected by community networks, update on progress of activities and the challenges during implementation.



A VMW practising how to use an RDT to detect malaria during a regular monthly meeting management

This project supports efforts to deliver:

- ✓ Malaria control
- ✓ Monitoring and evaluation
- ✓ Support for at-risk population
- ✓ Capacity building and human resource development



This material has been funded by UK aid from the UK government. However, the views expressed do not necessarily reflect the UK government's official policies.

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