

The Strategy to Contain Artemisinin Resistant Malaria Parasites in Southeast Asia (or Containment Project), funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, was an innovative 3-year project aimed at addressing growing concerns of artemisinin resistance along the Thai-Cambodia borders. As one of the key partners in the Containment Project, Malaria Consortium provided technical support to the national malaria programmes of Cambodia and Thailand, local and international partners, and stakeholders.

Malaria Consortium served as an advisory member of the International Task Force for Artemisinin Resistance Containment, reviewing the project's overall progress and technical achievements, while providing recommendations and technical advice. Furthermore, Malaria Consortium provided technical leadership in the development, harmonisation, and implementation of the project's behaviour change and communication (BCC) strategies in Cambodia and Thailand.

Monitoring and Evaluation. While leading overall monitoring and evaluation activities for the project, Malaria Consortium supported both countries in their data collection and analysis to support achievement of indicator targets. One of the key products of our M&E interventions was the design and implementation of baseline and endline malaria surveys (2009 and 2010) in Cambodia. As part of evaluations of the containment project interventions, Malaria Consortium provided technical support in developing and implementing the quantitative and qualitative protocols to assess Village Malaria Worker (VMW) performance in the containment areas, as well as a costing evaluation of the Day 3+ follow up and directly observed therapy in Thailand, and the Focal Screening and Treatment (FSAT) pilot in Cambodia.

Surveillance. Malaria Consortium developed and installed a village malaria database in 45 target operational districts, while providing backup, trouble-shooting and supervisory support visits over the course of the project to follow up on progress and provide quality assurance. Malaria Consortium also led the design, together with InSTEDD, a local organisation, to provide SMS reporting of Day 3 + malaria cases. Malaria Consortium also provided a feasibility and costing assessment of D3+ community and health facility-based surveillance systems and provided recommendations and next steps based on the findings from this assessment. Malaria Consortium's work on development of the D3 + malaria surveillance system led to the expansion of this system for all Pf malaria cases as the country moves toward elimination.

Operational Research Support. Malaria Consortium provided technical advice and logistics support for the WHO-led FSAT and respondent-driven sampling (RDS) pilots in Cambodia and Thailand, which was an innovative method to reach mobile populations in both countries.

Dissemination of information. Seven technical cross-border workshops were organised by Malaria Consortium to discuss progress and challenges encountered during implementation of the containment project in four key issues: case management, mobile and migrant populations, BCC, and M&E/Surveillance. These cross-border workshops also served as a way to disseminate information to project partners. As for advocacy and mass communications, Malaria Consortium provided assistance to WHO in organizing journalists, documentary film-makers and senior technical advisors' visits to the field, showcasing the work of partners and documenting the progress of containment activities.

Efforts to contain artemisinin resistance is extended through the successful Global Fund grants to Cambodia (Round 9) and Thailand (Round 10) – both of which Malaria Consortium helped to develop. More recently, Malaria Consortium is also engaged in supporting the surveys for the Myanmar Artemisinin Resistance Containment (MARC) strategy. Malaria Consortium is well positioned technically

and programmatically to support countries in the region in resistance containment efforts through technical assistance, monitoring and evaluation, surveillance, and operational research.

For further information, including key products of this project, please visit the Malaria Consortium's Containment project page on the intranet or contact David Sintasath at d.sintasath@malariaconsortium.org.