

Summary report on the

**Workshop on malaria programme  
performance review and malaria strategic  
planning process and tools**

Cairo, Egypt  
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## **1. Introduction**

A workshop on malaria programme performance review and the malaria strategic planning process and tools was jointly organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, the Global Malaria Programme in WHO headquarters, the Roll Back Malaria (RBM) Partnership and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM). Financial resources were provided by the RBM Partnership. National programme managers and monitoring and evaluation focal points from several countries of the Region and from Eritrea and Turkey attended the workshop. Partners included the GFATM, the United Nations Development Programme, nongovernmental organizations, universities and the East Africa Roll Back Malaria Network. WHO staff from the Global Malaria Programme, regional offices for Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean and country offices in Afghanistan, Sudan, Yemen and Turkey attended the meeting, in addition to three experts from Egypt, Moscow and Morocco, participating as WHO temporary advisers.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- introduce the guiding principles, rationale and the steps involved in programme performance review;
- discuss the relationships between malaria programme performance review and the national strategic planning development process;

- consult and ensure consensus among all countries and their major partners on the objectives of reviews;
- develop a costed plan/proposal to secure required funding;
- prepare a checklist to track activities and agree on a timeline for their implementation.

The meeting aimed to orient countries and partners in malaria programme review as it has not yet been conducted in any countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region. The experiences of Kenya and Botswana were shared. It also aimed to orient countries on the development of new malaria control strategic plans 2011–2015 and to finalize plans and proposals for conducting malaria programme review and updating malaria strategic planning. The phases related to malaria programme review and malaria strategic planning were discussed.

## **2. Conclusions**

The workshop emphasized the importance of conducting periodic joint collaborative evaluation of national malaria control programmes to review the progress and performance of country programmes within the national health and development agenda. It should be a country-led process for evidence-based strategic planning and for improving programme performance in the delivery of antimalaria interventions. It is a tool for stakeholder dialogue on malaria control policies, strategies and service delivery. The findings of reviews also contribute to strengthening programme capacity, delivery structures and systems and partnership.

Although objectives vary among countries, they include to:

- review malaria epidemiology, burden, trends, seasonality, vector and parasite situation;
- review policy-making and programming framework, organization, structure and management within the health system and national development agenda;
- review current programme intervention thematic areas in terms of equity, access, coverage, quality, service delivery, progress, performance, challenges and problems and propose solutions;
- assess progress towards achievement of 2010 RBM goals and 2015 Millennium Development Goals targets;
- define the next steps to improve programme performance and/or redefine the strategic direction and focus, including revision of policies, strategic plans and annual operational plans and redesign of programmes.

A malaria programme performance review entails four phases. There are different types of review, including:

- comprehensive programme evaluation review
- baseline/midterm/end of project review
- simple annual review
- monitoring programme reviews (weekly, monthly or quarterly)
- routine reporting and review
- specific thematic area review.

Gap analysis is a part of malaria performance review specifically aimed at the identification of the source and amount of funds needed to meet the objectives of the programme.

It is important to involve the community in the process of revising the action plan. In terms of qualitative performance rating, a rating scale should be introduced using categories such as “Good”, “Very good” and “Excellent”. The lowest unit to be selected for review in field visits is based on the results of malariological stratification of the country. It should represent different eco-epidemiological settings of malaria (i.e. low transmission areas, high transmission areas).

Clarification was sought on the importance of an aide memoir, which is a memorandum setting forth the major findings of a review and high-level agreement on commitments, used especially to build and facilitate follow-up recommendations.

#### *National strategic plan and sustainable malaria investment*

There is no well-established standard for the frequency of revising strategic planning. The usual practice can be annually, every 3 years, every 5 years, depending on local conditions. The format for evaluating a national strategic plan was discussed and used by participants.

In Sudan, the malaria control programme recently has gone through the process of updating malaria strategic planning, identifying targets and performing gap analysis, etc.

It is important to ensure that the strategic plan is a realistic one for implementation on the periphery of health services.

For each category of personnel engaged in malaria-related activities there should be a job description supported by the guidelines. Participants stressed the evident importance of availability of staff trained in various areas of malaria control.

There is a need to improve infrastructure both at the national level by creating national training centres in various countries and at the international level by holding training courses.

To improve the currently inadequate entomological support in many programmes requires cooperation with various research institutions within the countries.

#### *Funding issues*

Concern was expressed about the quality of ordered supply and equipment and the timing of disbursement of the funds by the GFATM which means that sometimes commodities are not procured in a timely way.

In scrutinizing country proposals GFATM concentrates on outcome and impact indicators. The Fund intends to modify the present cycle of 24 months to 36 months, thus aligning with country cycles. National strategic application (second wave) will always be managed under the new system.

Consolidation means creation of one grant, with one budget, work plan, set of indicators, etc. consolidated from pre-existing grants. Each consolidation scenario is different and will be handled as is most appropriate. The scenario should be discussed with the new “architecture team”, GFATM and respective fund portfolio managers.

The money should be spent in an accountable manner. Unspent money by the end of the funding year period should be returned to the GFATM. However, tasks agreed upon can be undertaken after the end of the grant period through extending the period without funding.

### **3. Recommendations**

#### *To Member States*

1. Apply the methodology discussed during this workshop in future malaria programme reviews.
2. Submit detailed proposals for malaria programme reviews. Final endorsed proposals should be submitted to the WHO Regional Office before the end of February 2011.

#### *To the Global Fund*

3. Contribute to funding malaria programme reviews from existing grants, savings or reprogramming.

*To WHO*

4. Support countries in mobilization of needed resources for malaria programme review from the Roll Back Malaria Partnership and other partners.
5. Follow up on the progress of malaria programme review in countries and provide countries with technical assistance.
6. Establish a roster of experts for malaria programme review from different regions to support the various needs of countries.
7. Arrange training at country level to strengthen national capacity and produce experts for national malaria programme reviews.