

Sub-Technical Working Group for Malaria Control, Parasitology and Entomology Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: 08 October 2013, 2:30 pm-5pm.

Location: CNM, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Attendees: CNM, UNOPS, WHO, CHAI, PSI, FHI, MC, AFRIM, URC, MoEYS, PFD

Dr. Char Meng Chuor, Director of CNM opened the meeting, welcoming the participants. Participants introduced themselves to the group. He explained to the members that this meeting of the Sub-Technical Working Group (STWG) is in line with the Technical Working Group (TWG) of the Ministry of Health which every 2 months. He recalled that the STWG was established in 2006 and after a few initial meetings stopped functioning. He felt that in the light of the emerging trends in dengue spread and artemisinin resistance persistence, it was necessary to revitalize the STWG. The main purpose of this meeting is to update the situation in relation to diseases such as malaria, Dengue and NTD, to share efforts being made by each partner, defining roles and responsibilities in relation to elimination of drug resistance and malaria in accordance with the National Strategy for Malaria Elimination by 2025, etc. He reminded the participants that for the past few years 85% of the budget used for the malaria programme has been from GF grants but that in the near future, probably as early as in December 2013, there would be a significant change not just in Cambodia but in the whole Region in terms of the proportion of funds from GF but also from other donors. He therefore emphasized that effective coordination of the contributions from partners would be very important for Malaria, Dengue and NTD programme.

Discussion topics:

- Introduction & Update on DHF
- Update on the success & challenges of multi sectoral and International Collaboration for Malaria Control and Elimination in Cambodia
- Result from PCR Testing on Mutant parasites to Atovaquone (by IPC)
- Preparations for the upcoming malaria Stakeholders meeting (December 2, 2013)

1- Introduction & Update on the DHF:

Dr. Ngan Chantha, Deputy Director of CNM and the Head of the Dengue Program updated the group on the situation of the Dengue Program. His presentation included the main causes for the spread of Dengue, and the role of control activities against dengue (Dengue is the public health, existing in more than 100 countries including Cambodia). He explained that Dengue has become endemo-epidemic in Cambodia with peaks observed at the intervals of 3-5 years. According to the National Strategic Plan for Dengue, it is essential to improve and strengthen the existing surveillance system as well as strengthen the emergency preparedness and outbreak, Control activities: via mass media, training, larviciding, etc.) Before ending his presentation, he concluded that

the dramatic global emergence of DF/DHF are complex and not well understood, thus Early Warning System should be focused for reducing burden of Dengue (e.g. epidemiological surveillance system, water monitoring, and climate monitoring system, but the challenge would be how to integrate the different warning systems?).

In response to the DHF presentation, Dr. Soy Ty (URC) proposed that data should be shared with other countries in the region and in relation to the collection of data, he suggested to collect not only from public health facilities but from the private sector too.

2- Update on the success & challenges of multi sectoral and International Collaboration for Malaria Control and Elimination in Cambodia (by CNM Director).

Before starting his presentation, Dr. Chuor drew the participants' attention to the mounting flood situation in the country and requested that they be ready for undertaking the required interventions during and after the flood. He appealed to partners and donors to help the Cambodian people affected by the floods.. He also informed that in 2011 there were 247 deaths and in 2013 have been at least 80 death so far reported during this catastrophe of flood. He then went on to present the success of the programme by indicating the reduction of Pf cases from 2000 to 2013, the successful implementation of the ban on Artemisinin monotherapy in the private sector, , the collaboration among Inter-Ministrial Committee, the flow of budget to be supported to the implementation agencies, the supply of antimalarial drugs from PSI, and key milestones in the AoP Process. One big concern he raised is the Resistance of Antimalaria drugs in Zone I; he showed the treatment failure rates of the Antimalaria drugs used at each sentinel site, studies conducted by different partners and requested for any suggestions and recommendations from the group to take action to stop the spread of resistant parasites. Before ending his presentation he proposed to convene a special meeting with stakeholders to discuss the Technical management to determine what to do against the evidences of the treatment failures found in Zone I.

3- Mutant parasites to Atovaquone : Findings resulting from PCR conducted by IPC Dr. Didier, Representative of IPC talked about the detection of mutant parasites to Atovaquone.

The aim of the study is to find out whether the malaria parasites can develop resistance with Atovaquone or

not if IPC found that the parasites of the patients from Pailin (2012-2013) are resistant to

Atovaquone through PCR. The implication is that that in such a scenario, Malarone cannot be used in Pailin for treating malaria. Malarone oral, which is composed of Atovaquone/proguanil is being studied in Zone I (Pailin). The observation emerged that Cytochrome B mutation is already present in Pailin, even without drug pressure (13/112 were positive CytB on D0). Finally the results have shown, parasites still being found with P.f cytochrome B which is the marker to explain the parasite could be killed by Malarone.

4- Preparation for the upcoming Malaria Stakeholders Meeting (December 2, 2013)

Dr. Lek Dysoley, Deputy Director of National Malaria Center, drafted the purpose for organizing the upcoming Malaria Stakeholder meeting for e.g. Objectives, participation, hosting and funding of stakeholder meeting, scheduling of the stakeholder meeting and expected outcomes of the meeting for the group to review and adapt. He proposed that the group send their inputs for the agenda for the meeting to Director in case they could not share during the meeting. The following 6 objectives of the meeting were discussed and agreed.

- Share lessons learnt from recent research studies and surveys
- Review the current status and barriers to progress in the field of malaria elimination
- List the current partners and their roles and responsibilities for malaria elimination
- Identify strategic and programmatic GAPS
- Learn about the potential funding opportunities
- Expand partnership modalities

Annex A: Attendance List

National Center for Malaria Control, Parasitology, and Entomology (CNM)

- Dr. Char Meng Chuor, Director
- Dr. Ngan Chantha, Deputy Director
- Dr. Meas Tha, Deputy Director
- Dr. Tho Sochantha, Deputy Director
- Dr. Chea Huch, Deputy Director
- Dr. Chea Nguon, Deputy Director
- Dr. Lek Dysoley, Deputy Director
- Dr. Po Ly, Chief of VMW
- Dr Lim Pharath, CNM lab
- Dr. Bou Kheng Thavrin, Chief of Health Education Unit
- Dr. Phat Thang Phan, M &E unit
- Dr. Sok Sochetra, M & E unit
- Mr. Mam Tel, Chief of Account Unit
- Mr. Mat Im Ram, Deputy Chief of Administration
- Ms. Mam Boravann, PPM Coordinator
- Ms. Mam Montha, Lab staff
- Mrs. Phork Pheakroth, CNM accountant staff

UNOPS

- Dr. Seshu Babu, Public Health Programme Officer

Representatives of:

- Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Population Services International (PSI)
- Institute Pasteur Center (IPC)
- Family Health International (FHI)
- Partners For Development (PFD)
- Malaria Consortium (MC)
- University Research Co. (URC)
- Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS)