Briefing Notes for SOM Breakout Sessions (24 April afternoon)

Session 5A: Data Driven Acceleration for Elimination

Session 5B: Paying for the endgame and beyond: Options for sustainable financing

Session 5C: Elimination as a building block for Health and Human security: Policy and Shared Priorities
The APLMA SOM will include breakout sessions on topics key to accelerating malaria elimination efforts towards the 2030 goal of Asia and the Pacific being free of malaria. Participants may choose the breakout session in which they would like to participate and share experiences.

The following are brief descriptions for each breakout session with questions you should come prepared to address.
Session 5A: Data Driven Acceleration for Elimination

The APLMA Leader’s Dashboard tracks progress and achievements towards malaria elimination in 22 countries across Asia Pacific. This is one the tools available for national and regional stewardship towards the 2030 goal. The data captured in the Dashboard must be of increasingly good quality to accurately represent the malaria control and elimination efforts in each country. As the region approaches elimination, milestones need to be made more specific, to capture granular details informing progress against each roadmap priority. Better data provides better insights on how to target interventions to achieve the Roadmap Priority targets. This session is aimed at reviewing best practices and priorities to improve data availability, and data quality, and support data integration in support of elimination efforts. Three main themes will be discussed as part of this session:

**Data availability**

Data collection across sectors is required to provide an accurate picture of the remaining burden. Where available, data should be more shared across borders to facilitate regional cooperation.

**Data Quality**

We need improved access to more granular, quality data to enable data-driven decision making by policy makers. Opportunities include:

**Data Integration**

As we approach elimination in the region, various countries will transition from Global Fund funding and support. To prepare for this transition, there is a need for integration of data into the broader health system, in order to ensure continuity of service and reporting.

**Objectives of this Session**

The side event will be divided in three sections, to:

1. Review the data landscape for malaria elimination in Asia Pacific
2. Capture and share good practices and approaches to improve data for elimination
3. Outline opportunities to improve the availability and quality of data for elimination and data integration

**Questions to Consider**

For each of the sections, key questions have been prepared. Participants are encouraged to review the questions and reflect on how they apply in their countries / context.

1. How can we improve the availability of data in real time to better monitor outbreaks, as we approach elimination?
2. How can we guarantee a more accurate picture of the remaining burden, and gaps in access to services and commodities, down to the subnational level?
3. What policy reforms are necessary to support a phased approach to integration of malaria data into general health reporting systems?
Session 5B: Paying for the endgame and beyond: Options for sustainable financing

In the past 15 years financing for malaria in Asia-Pacific has increased to over US$ 400 million per year, with a corresponding halving of the regional malaria burden. Nevertheless, more than two billion people in Asia Pacific remain at risk of malaria. In the past, reduced malaria funding and fading political commitment have led to 75 resurgences of malaria in 61 countries. Thus, adequate financing is a prerequisite for reaching the 2030 malaria elimination goal.

Looking ahead, there is positive news, but also uncertainties. On the one hand, economies are growing, countries are spending more resources on malaria, and there is a strong political commitment to the 2030 goal. On the other hand, malaria is increasingly becoming an invisible disease overtaken by other priorities, general levels of health expenditures are still comparatively low compared to other regions, and the future of external grant financing is uncertain.

This brief presents the potential questions to be asked during the breakout session on Sustainable Health Financing, for consideration by participants.

Objectives of the Sustainable Health Financing session

The side event will be divided in three sections.

4. Review the financing landscape, challenges and opportunities in Asia-Pacific with Senior Officials from Ministries of Finance and Health across the region.
5. Capture and share good country practices and approaches to progress health and malaria financing.
6. Outline financing areas that need to be addressed through national or regional actions.

Questions to Consider

For each of the sections, there are certain key questions. Participants are encouraged to review the questions and reflect on how they apply in their countries / context.

Section 1: The financing landscape, challenges and opportunities in Asia-Pacific

1. What are the biggest threats to sustained domestic financing for malaria? And conversely, what are the biggest opportunities?
2. How should domestic malaria funding best be positioned within the broader health financing agenda dominated by UHC and social health insurance schemes?
3. How can we best maintain the political commitment to eliminate malaria by 2030, and ensure this goal translates into new funding? What is the role of development partners?
4. What can countries do to prepare for a gradual, long-term, transition from external grant financing?
5. What is the role of non-state actors, civil society and the private sector in supporting the elimination agenda in your country?

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1 Cohen et al, Malaria Journal 2012, 11;122
Section 2: Capture and share good country practices and approaches to advance health and malaria financing

1. Countries will be invited to share experiences and practices that have helped to mobilize funding for malaria and or health.
2. Explore the necessary political conditions to embark on inter-ministerial health financing taskforces in countries.
3. Discuss countries’ previous experience in working with development banks.

Section 3: Outline financing areas that need to be addressed at national and regional levels.

1. Does the increase in domestic funding for malaria translate into increased political commitment? What actions should we take to sustain or increase the political commitment to malaria funding?
2. What steps do we need to take collectively to facilitate the transition from grant financing? What kind of support / assessments would be helpful? What is the role of partners?
3. What steps should countries and multilateral development banks (ADB or others) take to stimulate health investments? What can we do to better engage the private sector?
Session 5C: Health and Human Security: Challenges and Opportunities

Threats to health and human security in Asia Pacific are many; from outbreaks of airborne mutated influenzas to multi-drug resistant tuberculosis. Multidrug resistant malaria is one of such threats that could undermine the progress made so far and jeopardize the 2030 goal. The circulation of substandard or falsified medicines, is yet another contributing factor to antimicrobial resistance.

This session aims to address challenges by identifying priorities and best practices to improve human and health security in the region and support malaria elimination in a phase of transition to universal health coverage (UHC). The outcome will be a commitment to strengthen cooperation between all sectors of government and to support a whole-of-community approach to health.

**Human and Health Security in Asia Pacific**

Health security requires both national preparedness and a regionally coordinated approach; it is both a health and foreign policy issue. Increased regional connectivity provides opportunities for stronger collective action while the increasing mobility of populations across borders, presents challenges in containing the spread of communicable disease.

**Strengthening surveillance across diseases and beyond borders**

Populations most affected by malaria are those living near porous borders, often living in poverty and beyond the reach of health services. Mobile migrant populations in Asia Pacific are among those most affected. Improving surveillance systems to the last mile and ensuring access to affordable tests and treatments is key and a pre-requisite of UHC.

**Whole-of-society and whole-of-government approaches**

Models of regional cooperation exist that have the potential to drastically improve the cooperation on health security among key central agencies. Like other health security threats, regional malaria elimination requires a ‘whole-of-community’ approach. Civil society organisations, private sector providers, and military services have key roles to play in ensuring the delivery of services and commodities for all populations.

It also requires a ‘whole-of-government’ approach; leadership from the highest level, financing to see the task through, cooperation between nations to secure borders, and the engagement of law enforcement agencies are key. This is key in the fight against substandard and falsified medicines that requires the close follow up of illegal supply chains and the possible persecution of criminal groups.

**Session Objectives**

1. Identify links between Health Security, Disease Control and Elimination.
2. Identify the roles of Foreign Affairs and Defence agencies and other key stakeholders in the malaria elimination and health security agendas.
3. Identify key priorities for action in the next 12-18 months (to be presented on Day 2).

**Questions to consider**

1. What roles can non-state actors such as civil society and the private sector play in supporting the elimination agenda in your country?
2. How can we strengthen cross-border collaboration to ensure the delivery of services and commodities for malaria elimination to communities in remote, hard to reach areas?
3. How can we strengthen surveillance for and take action against falsified and substandard medicines to safeguard against the spread of antimicrobial drug resistance?