

## THIRD ANNUAL COUNTRY SURVEILLANCE MEETING TO FACILITATE MALARIA ELIMINATION IN THE GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION



30 October 2020

Virtual meeting

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC

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English only

MEETING REPORT

THIRD ANNUAL COUNTRY SURVEILLANCE MEETING  
TO FACILITATE MALARIA ELIMINATION  
IN THE GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION

Convened by:

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC

30 October 2020  
Virtual meeting

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## NOTE

The views expressed in this report are those of the participants of the Third Annual Country Surveillance Meeting to Facilitate Malaria Elimination in the Greater Mekong Subregion and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the conveners.

This report has been prepared by the World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific for Member States in the Region and for those who participated in the virtual Third Annual Country Surveillance Meeting to Facilitate Malaria Elimination in the Greater Mekong Subregion on 30 October 2020.

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### Keywords:

Malaria – epidemiology, prevention and control / Mekong valley / Sentinel surveillance

## ABBREVIATIONS

ACD	active case detection
China CDC	Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention
CMPE	Lao PDR Center for Malaria, Parasitology, and Entomology
CNM	Cambodian National Center for Parasitology, Entomology and Malaria Control
DHIS2	District Health Information System 2
DVBD	Thailand Division of Vector Borne Disease
eCDS	electronic communicable disease system
ERAR	Emergency Response to Artemisinin Resistance
FTAT	focal testing and treatment
GMS	Greater Mekong Subregion
iDES	integrated drug efficacy surveillance
LLIN	long-lasting insecticidal net
MCBRS	malaria case-based reporting and surveillance
MEDB	Malaria Elimination Database
MIS	malaria information system
MME	Mekong Malaria Elimination
NIMPE	Viet Nam National Institute of Malariology, Parasitology and Entomology
NMP	national malaria programme
RAI2E	Regional Artemisinin Initiative 2 Elimination
WHO	World Health Organization
YIPD	Yunnan Institute of Parasitic Diseases

## SUMMARY

On 30 October 2020, representatives from the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Member States – Cambodia, China, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam – met with partners to strengthen surveillance for malaria elimination in the subregion. The third annual surveillance meeting was hosted virtually by the World Health Organization (WHO) Mekong Malaria Elimination (MME) programme. During the meeting, representatives exchanged information on surveillance progress and challenges in their countries. Presentations centred around surveillance updates, the Malaria Elimination Database and data sharing. The outcomes from these discussions led to recommendations that aim to further strengthen surveillance to accelerate malaria elimination in the GMS towards the shared goal of a malaria-free status in the region by 2030.

The key conclusions of the meeting included the following:

### Overview of GMS malaria elimination

- From January to September 2020, the GMS countries demonstrated approximately a 61% decrease of *Plasmodium falciparum* cases and a 32% decrease of *P. vivax* cases compared to the same period in 2019.
- Malaria is now mostly concentrated in remote areas, where the disease disproportionately affects travellers to malaria-risk areas as well as mobile and migrant populations.
- The border closures and movement restrictions caused by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic resulted in limitations in the implementation of field activities, including case surveillance.
- However, countries have managed to adapt to remote surveillance systems and create new standard operating procedures.

### Surveillance in the GMS

The 1-3-7 approach is still a key malaria surveillance and response strategy in the GMS. Prompt reporting and data sharing on COVID-19 have been essential in tracking movements. Similar approaches could be applied to the surveillance of malaria cases.

### Malaria Elimination Database (MEDB)

All countries are reporting monthly to the MEDB. The Database should be utilized as a surveillance platform within the GMS, especially in relation to cross-border collaboration. WHO will continue maintaining and strengthening the platform, data verification and analyses. So far, four countries (Cambodia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand) have already given the green light to give access to the MEDB to malaria partners. However, it is advised to give access to partners across the whole region.

### Country updates

- **Cambodia:** In the coming year, Cambodia is focusing on: improving the Malaria Information System (MIS) features with the inclusion of data on patient ID and *P. vivax* radical cure (as well as a follow-up tool), strengthening pharmacovigilance, and developing an app for real-time sharing response and for the last mile of *P. falciparum* elimination.
- **China (Yunnan):** The biggest challenge remains the presence of cases along the border areas. Going forward, China is looking to improve joint cross-border malaria prevention and control.
- **Lao People’s Democratic Republic:** In the coming year, the country plans to implement weekly reporting from high-burden health facilities and village malaria workers using text messages, create more granular outbreak alert thresholds, scale up and accelerate elimination activities, and integrate treatment adherence into the District Health Information Software, or District Health Information System 2 (DHIS2), especially for *P. vivax* malaria.

- **Myanmar:** Challenges remain in using digital platforms for malaria surveillance, especially in hard-to-reach areas. More support is needed to improve technical skills, resources, as well as capacity for data encoding, analysis and documentation.
- **Thailand:** The malaria surveillance system continues to be integrated into national malaria programming. An online malaria system has been developed and includes real-time case-based surveillance, foci and vector mapping. A plan is in place to integrate malaria activities into the general health system and link the Health Management Information System with the MIS to improve malaria data quality
- **Viet Nam:** The country has completed the integration of its MIS into the electronic communicable diseases system (eCDS). Going forward, Viet Nam will focus on reviewing the content of its surveillance guidelines, strengthening the eCDS, and providing further technical support and training.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Meeting organization

The World Health Organization (WHO) Mekong Malaria Elimination (MME) programme hosts the Malaria Elimination Database (MEDB) to strengthen surveillance activities in countries and to facilitate data sharing and collaboration among countries. Currently, all countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), including Cambodia, China (Yunnan Province), the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam, are sharing monthly malaria surveillance data with the MME. In addition, the GMS countries continue to manage their own national surveillance activities to track and investigate cases, adjust programming and identify foci.

WHO hosted the one-day virtual meeting bringing together representatives from malaria control programmes, surveillance focal points from GMS countries as well as technical experts and partners to review the current status and performance of national surveillance systems and to discuss the future priorities for the MEDB and areas of improvement for data sharing.

The main discussion points included: the status and challenges in countries regarding surveillance systems, the use of surveillance data for programmatic actions, areas for surveillance improvement, the performance of the MEDB and ways to utilize the surveillance data on the MEDB to accelerate malaria elimination.

### 1.2 Meeting objectives

The objectives of the meeting were:

- 1) to review the status of surveillance systems, particularly for elimination capabilities, in the GMS and to identify challenges and make recommendations for practical solutions to strengthen surveillance;
- 2) to discuss the performance of the MEDB and preparation/planning of activities for the coming year as well as the ways to utilize the surveillance data to accelerate malaria elimination;
- 3) to discuss the feasibility of countries sharing more frequent granular/disaggregated data – that is, weekly aggregates by data sectors (public health facility, community, private sector);
- 4) to request approval from some GMS countries on granting shared access to the MEDB to malaria partners in the GMS; and
- 5) to discuss the possibility of starting surveillance assessments in GMS countries.

## 2. PROCEEDINGS

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

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