Approaches for mobile and migrant populations in the context of malaria multi-drug resistance and malaria elimination in the Greater Mekong Subregion





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Front cover: Migrant worker temporary housing in a rubber plantation, Attapeu province, Lao Peoples Democratic Republic. Photo credit: Dr Bousay Hongvanthong

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Acronyms

ACT artemisinin-based combination therapy

AIM Action and investment to defeat malaria 2016-2030

ASEAN Association of Southeast Asian Nations

BCC behavior-change communication

BMP border malaria post

CAP Malaria Control and Prevention Malaria project

CBM cross-border malaria

CSR corporate social responsibility
DOT directly observed treatment
EDAT early diagnosis and treatment

ERAR Emergency Response to Artemisinin Resistance in the GMS

GMS Greater Mekong Subregion

GPARC Global plan for artemisinin resistance containment GTS Global technical strategy for malaria 2016–2030

HIA health impact assessment
HiAP Health in All Policies

IEC information, education and communication

ILO International Labour Organization

IOM International Organization for Migration

IRS Indoor residual spraying
IPC interpersonal communication
ITN Insecticide-treated mosquito net

JUMINA Joint Initiative on Mobility and HIV/AIDS

KAP knowledge attitude and practices

LLINs long-lasting insecticidal net

MC Malaria Consortium

MMPs mobile and migrant populations

MMWs mobile malaria workers

MoU Memorandum of Understanding

MDR multi-drug resistance

OSH occupational Safety and Health PCR polymerase chain reaction

PPM Public Private Mix

PPP Public Private Partnership
PRA Participatory Rural Appraisal
PSI Population Services International

P. falciparum Plasmodium falciparum
P. vivax Plasmodium vivax

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RBM	Roll Back Malaria
IVIDIVI	IVUII DAUN IVIAIAITA

RDS Respondent Driven Sampling

RDTs rapid diagnostic tests
UHC Universal Health Coverage

USAID United States Agency for International Development

VHW village health worker
VMW village malaria worker
WHA World Health Assembly

Summary of key points

- Artemisinin resistance has been confirmed in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), emerging in the same location as resistance to earlier anti-malarial drugs. Drug resistance has hastened the commitment of GMS countries to eliminate malaria by 2030.
- Population mobility is a key priority for addressing drug resistance, but a range of challenges has inhibited the capacity for countries to effectively engage Migrant and Mobile Populations (MMPs). New strategies are currently underway and should be evaluated, refined and replicated across the region.
- Population mobility in the GMS is strongly associated with shifting land use, including large rural infrastructure projects and agricultural industries that attract migrant labor and influence human-vector contact.
- The epidemiology of malaria in many parts of the GMS is shifting toward adult migrant men who are exposed to vectors through high-risk work in the forest or on construction sites, and who have variable access to health services.
- Outdoor biting mosquitoes present a major challenge for vector control for MMPs working at night or sleeping outdoors and forest-fringe communities.
- Border communities, ethnic minorities and forest-fringe communities are strongly impacted by mobility. Programs should approach mobility as a system involving multiple demographic groups.
- Mechanisms should be in place for soldiers and other special groups, and risk reduction strategies should be established to prepare for disasters.
- Containing artemisinin resistance and eliminating malaria in the GMS will require
 a future-oriented and cross-sectoral response, involving non-health government
 agencies and the private sector. Cross-sectoral commitments to address the links

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