

# Meeting Report

## ERAR Dissemination Meeting to Share Findings of The Assessment of Malaria Surveillance Systems in Greater Mekong Subregion Countries



13 November 2015  
Siem Reap, Cambodia



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WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC

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MEETING REPORT

ERAR DISSEMINATION MEETING TO SHARE FINDINGS OF THE  
ASSESSMENT OF MALARIA SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS IN GREATER  
MEKONG SUBREGION COUNTRIES

Convened by:

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC

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13 November 2015

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## NOTE

The views expressed in this report are those of the participants of the ERAR Dissemination Meeting to Share Findings of the Assessment of Malaria Surveillance Systems in Greater Mekong Subregion Countries 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 ERAR Dissemination Meeting to Share Findings of the Assessment of Malaria Surveillance Systems in Greater Mekong Subregion Countries in Siem Reap, Cambodia, 13 November 2015.

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## **ABBREVIATIONS**

ERAR	Emergency Response to Artemisinin Resistance
MMP	mobile and migrant population
SME	surveillance, monitoring and evaluation
TWG	technical working group
WHO	World Health Organization

## SUMMARY

The Emergency Response to Artemisinin Resistance (ERAR) in the Greater Mekong Subregion aims to make information available region-wide to transform and strengthen systems of malaria surveillance into a core intervention, as advocated by WHO *Strategy for Malaria Elimination in the Greater Mekong Subregion 2015–2030*. A one-day consultation was organized to share and discuss the surveillance, monitoring and assessment (SME) assessment findings and agree on the way forward to strengthen SME system for malaria elimination in the Greater Mekong Subregion.

Representatives of the six national malaria programmes, development and technical partners and stakeholders reviewed progress on ERAR-SME implementation, the results and recommendations of the SME system assessment, provided inputs and identified way forward.

SME implementation includes completed analysis of the SME system in six Greater Mekong Subregion countries, with recommendations to guide SME systems strengthening at regional and country levels; increasing momentum in coordination of technical support provided to countries by WHO and SME partners through the Greater Mekong Subregion-SME Technical Working Group (TWG); scaling up of the web-based regional malaria database and information sharing platform; and a challenging but gradual improvement in data generation and information sharing across the Region.

A five-day training on SME strengthening was organized in August 2015 as part of the Greater Mekong Subregion Malaria Elimination Course. The regional strategic framework to monitor and evaluate progress has been updated to reflect the malaria elimination agenda. An indicator framework is being developed in line with WHO Global Malaria Programme guidance. Inputs are being sought from stakeholders to finalize the framework.

The SME assessment findings and recommendations showed: paucity of policy and strategic guidance on malaria surveillance; ill-defined elimination indicators in many countries and not harmonized across the Region; weak capacity for surveillance and response with minimal coordination at country and regional levels; diverse at risk stratification criteria and methods; some countries provide treatment with confirmatory diagnosis; diverse sources of data including a community based system that is not well integrated; limited private sector engagement despite reported best practices; capacity for a quality web-based database is weak at all levels; case-based surveillance is being introduced with limited or no malaria response mechanisms in many countries.

Many of the above findings were reiterated during group discussions. The World Café discussion identified cross-cutting issues in four areas that require regional actions to strengthen the surveillance system: 1) case detection, investigation and response; 2) data management, analysis and information sharing; 3) cross border surveillance and collaboration; and 4) capacity-building and resources to strengthen SME system.

As a side event, the ERAR/Greater Mekong Subregion Malaria elimination Hub convened the meeting of the ERAR SME TWG to review progress since last meeting and to agree on next course of action based on outcomes of the SME dissemination meeting. The group commended the rigorous effort behind the assessment and endorsed all the recommendations. The group urged WHO, in collaboration with national programmes and key partners, to update and share proposed indicators; mobilize resources to upgrade the regional data sharing platform; and publish the SME assessment report with inputs from countries. The group requested that the ERAR-SME Partners' Profile be updated and printed before the next meeting.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Meeting organization

As part of the efforts to strengthen malaria surveillance, monitoring and evaluation systems and enhance accountability in the Greater Mekong Subregion, it was agreed to convene a back-to-back South-East Asia and Western Pacific Bi-regional Meeting of Malaria Drug Resistance Monitoring Networks on 10–12 November 2015 and ERAR Dissemination Meeting to Share Findings of the Assessment of Malaria Surveillance Systems in Greater Mekong Subregion Countries on 13 November 2015 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The meeting agenda is available at Annex 1. The list of participants is available at Annex 2.

The six Greater Mekong Subregion country malaria programmes were represented by the malaria programme managers and the focal person for surveillance, monitoring and evaluation (SME). They were joined by development and technical partners and stakeholders. Prior to the meeting, WHO malaria focal points had supported country programmes to review the country SME assessment reports and prepare country perspectives on SME system strengthening.

Through technical presentations, country and World Café group work, and discussions in plenary, the meeting reviewed progress on ERAR-SME implementation; discussed the results and recommendations of the SME system assessment, provided inputs; and identified ways forward.

### 1.2 Meeting objectives

The objectives of the meeting were:

- 1) to discuss the SME assessment findings and identify strengths and weaknesses at national and subregional levels;
- 2) to identify national and subregion-specific priority actions to strengthen surveillance for malaria elimination in the Greater Mekong Subregion; and
- 3) to share update on the framework for SME for elimination of malaria in the Greater Mekong Subregion

## 2. PROCEEDINGS

### 2.1 Opening session

The representative of the Director of Cambodia National Malaria Center, Dr Tol Bunkea recalled the commitment of leadership in Greater Mekong Subregion countries to eliminate malaria by 2030. He emphasized the need for strong SME systems to track progress and periodically evaluate results,

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