



Regional Research Framework to Strengthen Communicable Disease Control and Elimination

in the Western Pacific (2013 – 2017)



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Foreword

Communicable diseases have a significant negative impact on human development in the WHO Western Pacific Region. While commendable progress has been made, the Region still faces significant challenges. Resistance to drugs used to treat tuberculosis and malaria, for example, represent a serious public health threat with global implications.

At the same time, substantial programmatic gaps in the control and prevention of communicable diseases still exist, jeopardizing the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. Filling these gaps requires research, a core function of the World Health Organization.

Research findings allow programme managers and policy-makers to make decisions that will help improve public health outcomes. Research will directly lead to innovative evidence-based strategies and tools that can then enable disease-control and elimination programmes to effectively address, among other issues, impeding factors such as bottlenecks in health systems, the lack of diagnostic tools or programme verticality and the lack of integration.

The Division of Combating Communicable Diseases in the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific has taken a lead role in strengthening research on targeted diseases in the Region. Research is now part of programme-specific regional plans of action for malaria, dengue, neglected tropical diseases, tuberculosis and vaccine-preventable diseases.

In collaboration with research institutions and partners, the Division has developed a *Regional Research Framework to Strengthen Communicable Disease Control and Elimination in the Western Pacific* (2013–2017). The framework aims to provide a regional framework for collaboration with Member States, research institutions and partners to carry out research aimed at strengthening key communicable disease programmes. It identifies critical areas of work and is expected to serve as a road map for strengthening research throughout the Region.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shin Young-soo'.

Shin Young-soo, MD, Ph. D.
WHO Regional Director for
the Western Pacific



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នេះ
Options | Back

Malaria

For in vitro diagnostic use
Store at 2-8°C (32-36°F)
QC PASSED

TESTS

Malaria

For in vitro diagnostic use

ACCESS

The introduction of new technology, such as text messaging, strengthens the reporting system used by village malaria workers in Pailin province in Cambodia.

Executive summary

Communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) and vaccine-preventable diseases have a considerable negative impact on social development in the Western Pacific Region. Despite significant progress towards the control and elimination of these diseases, the Region is facing emerging threats such as drug-resistant tuberculosis and malaria, the increased risk of infection faced by vulnerable populations, and the effects of climate change.

Research plays a critical role in tackling issues of communicable disease control in the Western Pacific Region. Strategies and tools based on sound research enable disease-control programmes to address issues more effectively. Research also helps programme managers and policy-makers make timely evidence-based decisions that will improve health outcomes.

Harnessing research, information and evidence is a priority agenda and a core function of WHO. In 2010, the World Health Assembly endorsed *The WHO Strategy on Research for Health*, which aims

established yet. Thus, in collaboration with researchers, academic institutions and partners, DCC developed a draft *Regional Research Framework to Strengthen Communicable Disease Control and Elimination in the Western Pacific (2013–2017)*.

The purpose of this document is to provide a regional research framework for DCC's collaboration with governments, research institutions and other stakeholders to carry out research aimed at strengthening key communicable disease programmes. The framework identifies key areas of work and will serve as a road map for research strengthening.

The regional goal of the framework is to reduce the burden of communicable diseases, and eliminate them where feasible, by generating and applying evidence from research in the Western Pacific Region.

The regional objectives of the framework are:

- to enhance research capacity and coordination, and to shape national and regional research priorities for

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