

**Working Group Meeting on Cambodia-Thailand-Myanmar Cross-Border Collaborations on Malaria Control and Prevention**

**Siem Reap, Cambodia  
August 22-24, 2012**

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***Meeting Report***

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**Promoting the Quality of Medicines**

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**PROMOTING THE QUALITY OF MEDICINES**

## **Executive Summary**

The PQM Regional Consultant attended the Working Group Meeting on Cambodia-Thailand-Myanmar Cross-Border Collaborations on Malaria Control and Prevention organized by University Research Company/CAP-Malaria in Siem Reap, Cambodia that brought together representatives from national malaria control programs (NMCPs), World Health Organization, international development agencies, and other representatives from border provinces of Cambodia, Thailand, and Myanmar to discuss potential cross-border activities and to identify programmatic areas for CAP-Malaria to support.

Experiences, lessons learned, and best practices were shared through group discussions, and work plans for the year ahead were developed.

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### **About PQM**

The Promoting the Quality of Medicines (PQM) program, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), is the successor of the Drug Quality and Information (DQI) program implemented by the United States Pharmacopeia (USP). PQM is USAID’s response to the growing challenge posed by the proliferation of counterfeit and substandard medicines. By providing technical assistance to developing countries, PQM helps build local capacity in medicine quality assurance systems, increase the supply of quality medicines to priority USAID health programs, and ensure the quality and safety of medicines globally. This document does not necessarily represent the views or opinions of USAID or the United States Government. It may be reproduced if credit is given to PQM and USP.

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- Dr. Darin Kongkasuriyachai, Deputy Chief of Party, USAID-CAP-Malaria, URC
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## ACRONYMS

ACT	Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy
BCC	Behavioral Change Communication
CAP-Malaria	Control and Prevention of Malaria Project
DQI	Drug Quality and Information Program
GMS	Greater Mekong Sub-region
IEC	Information, Education, and Communication
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
LLIN	Long Lasting Insecticide-treated Net
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MQM	Medicine Quality Monitoring
NMCP	National Malaria Control Program
NQCL	National Quality Control Laboratory
PMI	President's Malaria Initiative
PQM	Promoting the Quality of Medicines Program
RDM/A	USAID Regional Development Mission for Asia
RDT	Rapid Diagnostic Test
URC	University Research Company
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USP	United States Pharmacopeia
WHO	World Health Organization

## **Background**

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and U.S. Pharmacopeia (USP) have been providing technical assistance to the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) since 1992, first through the USP Drug Quality and Information (DQI) program and, currently, through the Promoting the Quality of Medicines (PQM) program. In the GMS, activities have focused on a) continuing and maintaining the proven-effective medicine quality monitoring (MQM) programs for anti-infective medicines; b) building the capacity of national quality control laboratories (NQCLs) in pharmaceutical analysis toward compliance with ISO 17025:2005 and/or World Health Organization (WHO) prequalification standards; c) improving the manufacturing practices of local pharmaceutical manufacturers for priority antimalarials; and d) raising awareness on poor-quality medicines among the general public at the community level as well as among healthcare providers, the pharmaceutical industry, and others.

Despite advances, poor quality pharmaceuticals—either manufactured in-country or imported illegally—persist in the region. One of the reasons for this is weak inter-country and regional cooperation.

## **Purpose of Trip**

The PQM consultant traveled to Siem Reap, Cambodia to attend the Working Group Meeting on Cambodia-Thailand-Myanmar Cross-Border Collaborations on Malaria Control and Prevention and provide an overview of PQM activities as a President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) partner.

The objectives of the working group meeting were to:

- Bring together stakeholders to ensure alignment of strategic approaches on cross-border collaborations with those of the national programs and regional partners
- Prioritize specific strategies/interventions to address malaria control and prevention in vulnerable populations, especially highly mobile migrant and cross-border populations
- Identify challenges and resources needed for effectively targeting cross-border malaria

## **Meeting Title and Themes**

*Working Group Meeting on Cambodia-Thailand-Myanmar Cross-Border Collaborations on Malaria Control and Prevention (see Agenda in Annex I)*

- Malaria situation and control activities in Thailand
- Malaria situation and control activities in Cambodia
- Malaria situation and control activities in Myanmar
- Experience and lessons learned from cross-border collaboration
- Looking ahead/ways forward to increase cross-border collaboration (work plans)
- PMI's thematic discussions (behavioral change communication—BCC, net preference, commodity quantification, medicine quality)

## **Meeting Deliberations**

### Opening Remarks

- Dr. Kheang Soy Ty, University Research Company/CAP-Malaria
- Dr. Wayne Stinson, PMI
- H.E. Dr. Mam Bun Heng, MOH

The meeting was officially opened for all participants on August 23, 2012. In the opening statements, an introduction of the Control and Prevention of Malaria (CAP-Malaria) project—funded by USAID Regional Development Mission for Asia (RDM/A) and implemented by University Research Company (URC)—was given. The project aims to help contain the spread of multi-drug resistant *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria in the GMS by developing vector control interventions, enhancing diagnosis and treatment of malaria, diminishing management bottlenecks of national malaria programs and local institutions, and supporting information systems for malaria control.

The objectives of the working group meeting were outlined, and emphasis was placed on the importance of cross-border collaboration among Thailand, Cambodia, and Myanmar to prevent and control malaria. Finally, participants were welcomed to the meeting by the Cambodian Minister of Health, with the presentation of gifts.

#### Highlights of Meeting Deliberations and Presentations

The malaria situation and control activities in key border areas in Thailand (Ranong, Trat, Chantaburi, and Tak provinces), Cambodia (Pailin, Battambang, and Pursat provinces) and Myanmar (Tanintharyi Region and Kayin State) were presented by public health staff of the respective areas. Updated information on malaria morbidity and mortality, high risk groups, migrant situations, parasite species, and malaria activities (e.g., surveillance, prevention, diagnosis and treatment, training, information, education and communication—IEC, border malaria posts, meetings, and World Malaria Day celebrations) was provided. Of note, presenters from Chantaburi province in Thailand and Tanintharyi Region in Myanmar mentioned projects related to antimalarial medicine quality. Presenters also suggested potential joint activities for cross-border collaboration from a local perspective (e.g., information exchange, routine entomology surveys, screening and treatment of cross-border populations, and harmonization of communication materials). The issues of medicine resistance, availability of medicines, quality of data, mobile and migrant populations, and the increase in *P. vivax* were also discussed.

The representatives of the malaria programs of Thailand, Cambodia, and Myanmar also provided overviews of current activities (e.g., surveillance, prevention, health education, and information sharing) and opportunities (e.g., political support, existing border screening points, and media coverage) for cross-border collaborations from a national perspective.

Finally, the experiences and lessons learned from existing cross-border collaborations from CAP-Malaria's perspective and the identified opportunities and challenges were shared.

The next part of the meeting consisted of small discussion groups. These groups developed work plans both at cross-national and cross-border local levels for the coming year, including clear timelines and responsibilities, mechanisms for efficient cross-border collaboration, nominations of focal points, and identification of support and resources needed. The groups also identified the challenges they faced, such as the use of different languages and treatment guidelines, referrals of patients across borders, illegal border crossings, medicine resistance, and refrigeration of rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs). As solutions, they proposed increasing the number of meetings across

borders, issuing bilingual malaria cards, publishing online data in English, and sharing quarterly data among the countries.

The meeting concluded with thematic and technical discussions among PMI and its partners, with input from country programs. Issues relating to BCC, net preferences, commodity quantification, and medicine quality were on the agenda. A study on current net use and preference was presented by a Malaria Consortium consultant. It was found that conventional nets are widely used, but people do not value insecticide treatment. Problems with long lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLIN) procurement, access to hard-to-reach populations, and engagement of the private sector were discussed.

The PQM consultant offered an overview of current PQM activities in the GMS, which was followed by a discussion on issues related to antimalarials in Cambodia (smuggling of medicines from neighboring countries and availability of banned monotherapies at the peripheral private sector) and Myanmar (forthcoming ban on monotherapy, introduction of artemisinin-based combination therapies or “ACTs” through the private sector at subsidized prices, together with RDTs).

Lastly, a presentation on commodity quantification planning was given by a representative from the USAID/DELIVER project. The different steps involved in the process and specific examples were given.

#### Meeting Materials and Sources of References

Meeting materials can be obtained upon request at [romanperezvelasco@gmail.com](mailto:romanperezvelasco@gmail.com).

#### **Conclusion**

The Working Group Meeting was very successful. Experiences, lessons learned, and best practices were shared through group discussions, and work plans for the year ahead were developed.



**Cambodian Minister of Health with participants looking at IEC materials**

**WHO representative asking a question at a Q/A session**



**The participants listening to a speaker's presentation**

**A small discussion group on Thai-Burmese cross-border collaboration**



All photos are courtesy of Kiang Samrang

### Meeting Agenda

Working Group Meeting on Cambodia-Thailand-Myanmar Cross-Border Collaborations  
on Malaria Control and Prevention

Siem Reap, Cambodia  
August 22-24, 2012

#### Day 1 – 22nd August 2012

Time	Session/Topic	Responsible person
08:45	Arrival of Guests (Registration)	Vichet/Samnang
09:00 – 12:00	CAP-Malaria family gathering: -to discuss internal progress, achievement, and bottleneck -to prepare for the cross-border meeting with stakeholders -to share some responsibility during the cross-border meeting	
12:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00 – 18:00	Trip to visit the Khmer Culture Sites (Angkor Temples) (Guests should meet at Lobby Lounge at 13:45 for departure)	
18:30	Welcome Dinner	

#### Day 2 – 23rd August 2012

Time	Session/Topic	Responsible person
08:30 – 09:30	Arrival of guests and registration	Vichet/Samnang
09:30 – 9:40	Introduction of project and objectives of the meeting by URC/CAP-Malaria	Dr. Kheang Soy Ty
09:40 – 09:50	Welcome remarks by USAID/RDMA	Dr. Wayne Stinson
09:50 – 10:10	Welcome and opening remark by minister of MOH-Cambodia	H.E. Dr. Mam Bun Heng
10:10 – 10:30	Symbolic handover gifts	H.E. Dr. Mam Bun Heng
10:30 – 10:45	Group photo and coffee break	All guests
10:45 – 11:00	Self-introduction	All guests
<b>Malaria situations and control activities in Thailand</b>		
11:00 – 11:10	Current malaria situations and control activities in Ranong Province	Ranong representative
11:10 – 11:20	Current malaria situations and control activities in Trat Province	Trat representative

11: 20 – 11:30	Current malaria situations and control activities in Chantaburi Province	Chantaburi representative
11:30 – 11: 40	Current malaria situations and control activities in Tak Province	Tak representative
11:40 – 11:50	Current activities & opportunities for cross-border collaborations from Thailand perspectives	Dr. Wichai Satimai
11:50 – 12:20	Q/A	
12:20 – 13:30	Lunch break	
<b>Malaria situations and control activities in Cambodia</b>		
13:30 – 13:40	Current malaria situations and control activities in Pailin Province	Pailin representative
13:40 – 13: 50	Current malaria situations and control activities in Battanbong Province	Battanbong representative
13:50 – 14:00	Current malaria situations and control activities in Pursat Province	Pursat representative
14:00 – 14:10	Current activities and opportunities for cross-border collaborations from Cambodia perspectives	CNM representative
14:10 – 14:30	Q/A	
<b>Malaria situations and control activities in Myanmar</b>		
14:30 – 14:40	Current malaria situations and control activities in Tanintharyi Region and Kawthaung township	Tanintharyi representative
14:40 – 14: 50	Current malaria situations and control activities in Kayin State	CAP-Malaria team, Myanmar
14:50 – 15:00	Current activities and opportunities for cross-border collaborations from Myanmar perspectives	Thar Tun Kyaw, Director, NMCP
15:00 – 15: 20	Q/A	
15:20 – 15:40	Coffee Break	
15:40 – 16:20	Experience and lessons learnt from cross-border collaboration - Sister-cities - Opportunities and challenges	
16:20 – 17:30	Cross-border and sister-cities discussion group - - National programs - Cambodia-Thailand border - Thailand-Myanmar border	CAP-Malaria team
17:30	Day break	CAP-Malaria team

### Day 3 – 24th August 2012

Time	Session/Topic	Responsible person
08:30 – 09:30	Looking ahead/ways forward - Work plan and timeline for Year 2 - Support and resources needed	CAP-Malaria team
09:30 – 10:00	Regroup and discussion summary on sister-cities collaborations	CAP-Malaria team

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Task and responsibility</li> <li>- Next cross-border sister-cities meeting</li> </ul>	
10:00 – 10:10	Cross-border meeting summary	Dr. Kheang Soy Ty/Neeraj Kak
10:10 – 10:25	Closing remarks on cross-border meeting by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Director of NMCP-Myanmar</li> <li>- Director of NMCP-Thailand</li> <li>- Director of CNM-Cambodia</li> </ul>	Dr. Thar Tun Kyaw Dr. Wichai Satimai Dr. Char Mengchuor
10:25 – 10:45	Coffee Break	
10:45 – 12:40	PMI's thematic discussions with inputs from Country Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BCC</li> <li>- Net preference</li> </ul>	Wayne Stinson Networks
12:40 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 17:00	PMI's technical meeting (PMI's partners, Thai-BVBD, Myanmar-NMCP, Cambodia-CNM) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commodity quantification</li> <li>- Medicine quality</li> </ul>	Wayne Stinson