

**Rational Pharmaceutical Management Plus  
Roll Back Malaria East African Regional Network Partners Meeting,  
Kampala, Uganda January 2005: Trip Report**

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### **About RPM Plus**

The Rational Pharmaceutical Management Plus (RPM Plus) Program, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (cooperative agreement HRN-A-00-00-00016-00), works in more than 20 developing countries to provide technical assistance to strengthen drug and health commodity management systems. The program offers technical guidance and assists in strategy development and program implementation both in improving the availability of health commodities—pharmaceuticals, vaccines, supplies, and basic medical equipment—of assured quality for maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS, infectious diseases, and family planning and in promoting the appropriate use of health commodities in the public and private sectors.

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## Acronyms

ACT	Artemisinin-based Combination Therapies
CDC	US Centers for Disease Control
CQ	Chloroquine
EARN	East African Regional Network (Roll Back Malaria)
GF	Global Fund
GFATM	Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICP	Inter Country Programme
IPT	Intermittent Preventive Treatment
IRS	Indoor Residual Spraying
ITN	Insecticide Treated Nets
LLINS	Long Lasting Insecticide Treated Nets
MAC	Malaria Action Coalition
MMSS	Malaria Medicines Supply Service
MNH	Maternal and Neonatal Health Program
MSH	Management Sciences for Health
RBM	Roll Back Malaria
RDT	Rapid Diagnostic Test
REAPING	RBM Essential Actions, Progress & Investments Gaps
RPM Plus	Rational Pharmaceutical Management Plus
SP	Sulphadoxine Pyrimethamine
TA	Technical Assistance
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organization

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## **Background**

More than 90% of the clinical cases of malaria each year occur in Africa with much of the burden in children under five years of age. Pregnant women are especially at risk and strategies to decrease the morbidity in this group have been found to be effective. Strategies to address these challenges must be implemented in collaboration with programs aimed at integrated approaches to childhood illness and reproductive health.

Management Sciences for Health's (MSH) Rational Pharmaceutical Management Plus (RPM Plus) Program has received funds from USAID to develop strategies to implement malaria policies and to provide technical assistance in pharmaceutical management issues for malaria. RPM Plus is a key technical partner in the USAID Malaria Action Coalition (MAC), a partnership among four technical partners: The World Health Organization (WHO), working primarily through its Africa Regional Office (AFRO), the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the ACCESS Program of JHPIEGO and RPM Plus.

RPM Plus has been working to improve pharmaceutical management for malaria in countries in Africa by identifying and addressing the causes of poor access, ineffective supply, and inappropriate use of antimalarials. RPM Plus has developed and applied tools to assess pharmaceutical management for malaria and has worked to provide technical assistance to countries by working with policymakers, researchers, managers, and providers in the public and private sectors to implement new and proven interventions. Significant among these interventions are Artemisinin-based Combination Therapies.

The MAC partners have planned to conduct exploratory visits during the next two months to Burundi and Ethiopia in the East African region to estimate the range of technical assistance needs that might arise as a result of changing the first line treatment to ACTs. These visits will be coordinated with the Roll Back Malaria East African Regional Network (EARN)<sup>1</sup>. As a way of ensuring full RBM involvement, a representative from EARN will participate in at least the first several exploratory country visits.

### **Purpose of Trip**

Rima Shretta and Gladys Tetteh from RPM Plus traveled to Kampala, Uganda to attend the EARN Annual Partners Meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of January, 2005. The purpose of this meeting was to review regional technical assistance needs, identify appropriate partners to provide this assistance and develop a workplan for the following 12 months.

### **Scope of Work**

- Attend and participate in the EARN Annual Partners Meeting
- Provide technical input for pharmaceutical management issues during the discussions
- Discuss how RPM Plus and the MAC partnership can provide technical assistance to EARN countries for implementation of ACTs

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<sup>1</sup> It was agreed in 2003 that the Roll Back Malaria (RBM) partnership would operate through networks at sub-regional level.

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- Obtain a consensus on a schedule of visits for the initial two countries identified for TA (Ethiopia and Burundi)
- Discuss which EARN representative can accompany the TA visits to Ethiopia and Burundi
- Meet with other EARN and RBM partners attending the meeting
- Provide an arrival briefing and /or departure debriefing to USAID upon request

## Activities

### **Attend and participate in the EARN Partners Meeting**

The main purpose of this meeting was to develop a workplan for 2005. The status of activities in the EARN joint workplan for 2004 was determined and activities that were pending and still relevant were marked for incorporation into the 2005 workplan. A joint draft workplan for 2005 was developed by EARN partners to support EARN member country needs and technical assistance requests. Partners attending the meeting volunteered assistance according to their area of expertise.

The recommendations from the EARN annual meeting in Kigali, Rwanda were reviewed.

It was noted that the RBM Secretariat did not have sufficient funds to fully support the budget presented by the EARN coordinating team for activities and that the continued support to the EARN Focal person may lead to a delay to support the identification and support for a WARN focal person.

The EARN plans to submit a regional proposal to the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) for Round 5. This proposal will cover all components of malaria control and RPM Plus will contribute to the drug management components of the proposal. Graham Root will lead the development of the EARN GFATM proposal.

A presentation was made by Suprotik Basu, a World Bank representative which outlined the new 'Malaria Booster Program'. This Program will provide countries with access to funds supporting malaria control.

### **Discuss how RPM Plus and the MAC partnership can provide technical assistance to EARN countries for implementation of ACTs**

RPM Plus contributes to the EARN workplan through the Malaria Action Coalition (MAC), although some activities fell within country level planned activities. Key activities identified for 2005 included support to Kenya, Burundi, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Tanzania for implementation of ACTs and associated drug management activities

A presentation was made by Rima Shretta, of RPM Plus on an overview of drug management aspects of ACT implementation and outlined the planned MAC technical assistance for implementation of ACTs. Countries initially identified for assistance are Ethiopia, Burundi, Benin, and Senegal.

A specific request was made by EARN partners for provision of technical assistance to Tanzania for ACT implementation.

### **Obtain a consensus on a schedule of visits for the initial two countries identified for TA (Ethiopia and Burundi)**

The EARN decided that the MAC ACT technical assistance visits would not be an EARN designated activity, however, the EARN will provide ongoing support including guidance as

requested. An EARN representative will not accompany the MAC team, However, Chris White of AMREF stated that he was keen to join in on one of the TA visits.

**Provide technical input for pharmaceutical management issues during the discussions**

RPM Plus provided technical inputs for pharmaceutical management issues during all the discussions held at the EARN meeting.

**Meet with other EARN and RBM partners attending the Annual Review and Planning Meeting**

RPM Plus held various informal meetings with EARN partners to discuss the coordination of technical assistance to countries in the Eastern Africa region. Rima Shretta would follow up with Suprotik Basu on the World Bank “Malaria Booster Program” to ensure complementarities between MAC and World Bank activities particularly in common countries such as Benin.

**Provide an arrival briefing and/or departure debriefing to USAID upon request**

Dr Cunnane had pre-scheduled meetings during the period of the visit. During a telephone discussion with his secretary it was decided that follow up by email would be made.

## **Next Steps**

- Discuss and coordinate the technical assistance request by EARN partners for Tanzania.
- Follow up on the EARN GFATM Round 5 proposal and contribute where required.
- Proceed with MAC assistance to countries as planned.

## **Immediate Follow-up Activities**

- Obtain more technical detail on the “Malaria Booster Program” in Benin.
- Follow up with AMREF regarding participation in future technical assistance identification visits with MAC team.



# Annex 1

## Agenda

**Ninth EARN Quarterly Meeting  
WCO, Kampala, Uganda  
January 26-27, 2005  
Hosted by WHO Inter-country Team**

	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>FACILITATOR</b>	<b>TIMEFRAME</b>
<b>Day 1</b>	<b>26 January, 2005</b>		
	Registration	WHO	08.30-09.00
	Introduction of participants and review of agenda	Monica Olewe	09.00-09.10
	Final update on 2004 EARN Joint Work Plan	Melanie Renshaw	09.10 - 10.00
<b>Break</b>	<b>Tea/Coffee</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>10.00-10 .30</b>
	Presentation, Discussion and Finalization of the 2005 EARN Joint Work Plan	John and Melanie	10.30 -13.00
<b>Break</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>13.00 – 14.00</b>
	Resource Mobilisation against the Joint Work Plan	Graham	14.00-15.30
<b>Break</b>	<b>Tea/Coffee</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>15.30-16.00</b>
	Malaria Booster Program	Suprotik Basu	16.00 – 17.00
<b>Day 2</b>	<b>27 January , 2005</b>		
	Review of the Kigali meeting		08.30-09.00
	Coordination and reporting within EARN	Graham Root	09.00 – 10.00
<b>Break</b>	<b>Tea/Coffee</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>10.00-10.30</b>
	TA to GF supported countries by MAC partnership for ACTs	Gladys Tetteh/Rima Shretta	10.30-11.00
	Discussion & Conclusions	Tom (Moderator)	11.00 – 13.00
<b>Break</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>13.00-14.00</b>
	Knowledge Management Concept	James Banda	14.00 – 14.45
	Next Meeting	JC	14.45 – 15.00
	Summary and conclusions	JC	15.00 – 15.15
	<b>Closing Logistics</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>15.15 – 15.45</b>

