Update on policy-setting by the WHO Global Malaria Programme

Malaria Policy Advisory Committee Meeting
WHO HQ Geneva, 5 March 2015
Why fine-tuning the policy-setting process now?

- **Policy-setting process at GMP transformed in 2011**
  - Creation of the MPAC
  - Establishment of standing TEGs
  - Decision to regularly convene ERGs

- **New process praised by both internal and external stakeholders**
  - Enabled WHO to strengthen the transparency and credibility of its policy-setting

- **After six MPAC meetings, now is the good time to fine-tune the process, in order to:**
  - Further clarify roles and responsibilities among the different parties,
  - Better leverage TEGs, ERGs and MPAC, and avoid “overbooking” of their agendas,
  - Improve process efficiency in a rapidly evolving context (agenda for acceleration towards elimination, etc.),
  - Improve communication and dissemination of new WHO policies and guidance.
Proposed adjustments to further improve GMP policy-setting

From MPAC acting as a validating body for all policies...

...to MPAC repositioned as an advisor on most critical topics

Ensure GMP act as 'clearing house' for the MPAC

Reposition MPAC as an advisor on key topics only

Better communicate WHO Policy recommendations and guidance

Harmonize TEG & ERG ways of working across Units
**Ensure GMP act as 'clearing house' for the MPAC**

**Current situation**

Current organigram suggests MPAC leads all collaboration with TEGs / ERGs

In practice, GMP staff already manages the convening of all TEGs / ERGs
- Defines meeting agendas
- Manages documents
- Prepares reports

Yet, all TEG / ERG reports currently submitted to MPAC

**Proposed adjustments**

Strengthen GMP involvement in TEG and ERG process
- Continue to manage the convening of all TEGs and ERGs
- Follow up on the technical advice put forward
- Present only selected issues of strategic importance to MPAC
- Keep MPAC informed of developments

Objective to ensure the best use is made of MPAC in its advisory capacity
Reposition MPAC as an advisor on key topics only

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<tr>
<th>Current situation</th>
<th>Proposed adjustments</th>
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<td>MPAC often asked to act as a “validator” on all policy related topics</td>
<td>Focus MPAC on its role as highest-level technical advisory body to WHO malaria</td>
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<td>• Even on straightforward issues with little debate</td>
<td>• Don’t ask to validate all guidance</td>
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<td>• Even when advice from a TEG could be sufficient</td>
<td>• Focus on key technical questions on which GMP needs strategic advice</td>
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<td>MPAC agendas “overbooked” by a wide range of topics, offering limited time to</td>
<td>Simplify MPAC agenda, and better clarify what is expected from MPAC</td>
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<td>address most strategic questions</td>
<td>• Mark all MPAC agenda items as “for information”, “for advice” or “for decision”</td>
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Harmonize TEGs and ERGs' ways of working across Units

Current situation

Roles & positioning of TEGs varying slightly across committees
- “Steering committee” vs. “sounding board” vs. “advisory body”

Composition and operating models also slightly different across TEGs & ERGs
- Profiles and diversity of members
- Presence of MPAC members in TEGs / ERGs
- Rules regarding observers, etc.

Proposed adjustments
(work in progress)

Role & positioning of TEGs / ERGs being reviewed to define a standard model (work in progress)

Following points clarified on the composition of TEGs & ERGs:
- Diversity of members to be ensured (geographies, genders & expertise)
- Programmatic experience required on all TEGs
- Maximum of 2 MPAC members by TEG, 1 one MPAC member by ERG
- Application of standard observer rules developed by GMP for all TEGs / ERGs
- Application of standard induction for new members
Better communicate WHO Policy recommendations and guidance

Current situation

Many norms, standards and guidance produced by GMP

Some room to standardize and improve materials and dissemination of policies

Publication of reports from MPAC meetings sometimes too slow, and not sufficiently “user-friendly”

Proposed adjustments (work in progress)

Review packaging of recommendations and guidance
  • Optimized policy briefs

Consolidate a “malaria prevention & treatment guidelines handbook”
  • Rapid access to a comprehensive overview of WHO guidance on malaria

Improve dissemination of MPAC outputs
  • Publish brief post-meeting reports on the Web the week after each meeting
  • Submit malaria journal articles one month after each MPAC, and streamline length & format
  • Translate recommendations in French, Spanish and Arabic