Progress in the Development of The Global Strategic Plan for *Plasmodium vivax* Control and Elimination

**Background**

In September 2012, MPAC endorsed the development of a global plan for *P. vivax*. The *P. vivax* plan will be an integral part of the Global Technical Strategy for Malaria Control and Elimination (2016-2025)[GTS]. Its development is supported by MMV. The initial Steering Committee meeting took place in November 2012.

**Work plan**

According to the original work plan, the first meeting of the Writing Committee (WC; includes most of Steering Committee) was planned for early 2013 and the Regional and country stakeholders were to be convened later in 2013 followed by presentation to MPAC in April 2014.

The first WC meeting was held in Barcelona on May 31, 2013. An outline was drafted for each of the Thematic Review topics, namely, biology, epidemiology, vector control, diagnosis and treatment, surveillance and elimination, costs and cost-effectiveness and research priorities. In addition, ten countries were chosen for Country Landscape Briefs.”

In the light of recent developments to the GTS it has been proposed to modify the schedule for the *P. vivax* plan in order that it is more closely aligned with that of the GTS. Another WC meeting is planned for October 2013 to review the progress of the thematic reviews. However, it is proposed to postpone the *P. vivax* regional consultation meetings until 2014 in order that they can be undertaken alongside those of the GTS. The GTS work plan envisages a draft 0 of the GTS being prepared by January 2014 after a GTS SC meeting scheduled for the week of 13 January 2014. A *P. vivax* WC meeting could tentatively be held that same week, just before the GTS SC meeting and thus be in time to feed its outcomes to GTS. The *P. vivax* Regional consultations can then take place alongside with GTS Regional Experts meetings during February-May 2014. While a draft *P. vivax* strategic plan may be available for the March 2014 MPAC meeting delivery of the completed report of *P. vivax* Strategic Plan will be delayed until after the regional consultations.

**Update on status of Thematic Reviews:**

Work is in progress and a good draft for each of the following sections is expected by late October.

**Biology**

WC: Ivo Mueller, Brice Campo, John Barnwell, Kamini Mendis  
WHO focal point: Piero Olliaro

The outline developed in Barcelona has been revised. Distinctive characteristics of *P. vivax* and the differences between *P. vivax* and *P. falciparum* will be the key part of this section. Each WC member is expected to begin writing in early September.

**Epidemiology**

WC: Simon Hay and the Oxford MAP team, Patrick Kachur  
WHO focal point: Erin Shutes
List of sub-sections has been revised to include consideration of populations most at risk and disease burdens. This is an expansion from the previous version, which focused only on parasite burdens and the use of \textit{P. vivax} prevalence maps. Ways to improve data collection and to make a better estimation of severe \textit{P. vivax} and \textit{P. vivax} deaths will be explored.

**Vector Control**  
Writer: Jeffrey Hii (a former WPR entomologist)  
WHO Focal Point: Abraham Mnzava

Jeffrey Hii is hired as a consultant. He has already started the reviews of current knowledge of \textit{P. vivax} transmission, on-going vector mapping projects and will try to identify gaps in vector control policies. A report is expected in October.

**Diagnosis and Treatment**  
WC: Ric Price, Kevin Baird, Neena Valecha, Stephan Duparc, Nick White  
WHO Focal Points: Jane Cunningham, Peter Olumese and Andrea Bosman

The first draft was obtained for major sub-sections of Diagnosis and Treatment. We are awaiting GMP focal points’ inputs before sending out for external reviews. We expect to receive the additional pieces soon.

**Surveillance and Elimination**  
WC: Anatoly Kondrashin, Kamini Mendis, A.C. Dhariwal  
WHO Focal Point: Rossitza Mintcheva

The first draft has been circulated for inputs from the group members. The section still needs more work.

**Costs/Cost-Effectiveness**  
WC: Shunmay Yeung, Michael White (Imperial College)  
WHO Focal point: Richard Cibulskis

Some progress has been made with development of models on CCE of diagnostics/treatment options. The group has started writing.

**Research priorities**  
WC: Quique Bassat (CRESIB), Jetsumon Prachumsri (Mahidol University)  
WHO Focal Points: Mar Velarde, Zhou Shuisen

The group is awaiting inputs from the other sections, but will also start putting together some parts likely to be the top five research priorities such as safe & effective therapy with primaquine, chloroquine resistance and use of ACT for \textit{P. vivax} malaria?, long-term \textit{in vitro} culture and animal model for \textit{P. vivax} and tools for distinguishing relapse, recrudescence and reinfection, etc.

**Update on status of Country Landscape Briefs:**

Ten countries with diverse \textit{P. vivax} endemicity have been selected. Their “Country Landscapes” will be summarized in term of \textit{P. vivax} epidemiology, interpretation of distributional
patterns and trends over time, malaria control interventions (policy and practice) as well as gaps and constraints in relation to WHO policy guidance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Coordinated by</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>Consultant hired; data collection started.</td>
<td>E. Gasimov/WCO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Andre Siqueira/Univ. Amazonas has started working on this.</td>
<td>M. Lacerda, A. Santelli, through K. Carter (AMR)’s suggestion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>NMCP data collection team being formed</td>
<td>S. Bjorge (WCO) + E. Christophel (WPR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Local teams in Henan and Yunnan are collecting 20-year data</td>
<td>S. Zhou &amp; China NIPD (Shanghai)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>CDC/PMI team partially drafted a brief; a consultant will be hired to collect Facility-based data</td>
<td>J. Malone and J. Hwang (CDC/PMI) + M. Aregawi</td>
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<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>Draft Gujarat report expected soon. Status of Odisha data collection being followed.</td>
<td>MMV, N. Valecha, and A.C. Dhariwal (India NMCP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>One consultant for Program data and one consultant for Research data are being hired.</td>
<td>A. Joshi (WCO), L. Ortega (SEAR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>(Communication delay)</td>
<td>G. Zamani (EMRO) is to follow up with NMCP Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>Dr. Alberto Montoya, Dir de Parasitología del CNDR, has agreed to work on this.</td>
<td>A. Balmaseda/MINSA+ Prof S. Becker-Dreps/UNC CH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PNG</td>
<td>TWG Malaria is forming a team with NMCP.</td>
<td>W. Kazadi (WCO) + E. Christophel (WPR)</td>
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