Expert Review Group (ERG) on malaria elimination

Drs. Hoda Atta and Keith Carter, EMRO and AMRO regional malaria advisors
Malaria Policy Advisory Committee, Geneva, Switzerland, 16 March 2016
Rationale for an Elimination ERG

- **The malaria landscape has changed dramatically since 2007**
  - Increased funding for malaria programme activities
  - Large-scale implementation of malaria interventions
  - Impressive reductions in malaria burden
  - Increasing number of countries eliminating or considering elimination of malaria
  - Changes in policy recommendations and available tools
  - Development of new Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016-2030 (3 pillars incl. elimination, 2 supporting elements)

2015–2016
Need to update the manual to reflect these changes
Objective of the Elimination ERG - membership

- Revise/develop a new *Malaria Elimination Field Manual* to cover all epidemiological settings, provide comprehensive, relevant guidance in the new malaria landscape, in line with mandate of the *Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016-2030*.

- 13 members with expertise and experience across relevant disciplines:
  - Dr Majed Al-Zadjali, Department of malaria, MoH, Oman
  - Pr Graham Brown, Nossal Institute for Global Health
  - Pr Tom Burkot, James Cook University
  - Dr Justin Cohen, CHAI
  - Dr Mikhail Ejov, independent consultant
  - Dr Rossitza Mintcheva-Kurdova, independent consultant
  - Dr Bruno Moonen, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
  - Dr Gao Qi, Jiangsu Institute of Parasitic Diseases
  - Dr Frank Richards, The Carter Center
  - Pr Christophe Rogier, Pasteur Institute of Madagascar
  - Dr Allan Schapira, independent consultant
  - Pr Robert Snow, KEMRI Wellcome Trust Research Programme
  - Dr Rick Steketee, PATH-MACEPA
June 2015 -> Delhi meeting, 31 July-2 August 2015

- Establishment of a repository/drop box of all guidelines, meeting reports, scientific papers and progress reports relevant to elimination (June-July)
- Deep dive into the current manual (2007) at the 1st ERG meeting in July-August 2015 (9/13 experts attending) with identification of gaps/new content and needed changes for the new guidance (July-August)
- Decision points of the Delhi meeting
  - New title: “Malaria elimination: An operational manual”
  - Audience: all, but primarily National Malaria Control Programme managers
  - Scope of guidance: all epidemiological settings as opposed to countries nearing elimination only
  - Focus: progression of all malaria-endemic countries towards elimination in accord with the GTS, moving away from the previous multi-staged / compartmented process from control to elimination
  - Steps A to E to progress towards elimination (accelerate scale-up, build information systems, clearance of parasites, detect and investigate, and Eliminate and maintain) including interventions and linking with GTS pillars and SEs
Phase 1

June 2015 -> Delhi meeting, 31 July-2 August 2015

- **New content identified**
  - Chapter “Innovation and Research for elimination”
  - Section on subnational elimination of malaria, referred to as “Subnational verification of malaria elimination” (country process) on the way to the WHO-led process of national certification
  - Special situations, lessons learnt from malaria elimination: examples and or boxes will be inserted where appropriate
  - Glossary to be aligned with the malaria elimination/eradication terminology work underway (led by A. Bosman at WHO and R. Steketee at MACEPA).

- **First outline drafted**
  - Principles and practice of malaria elimination
  - Planning for elimination
  - Management and mindset for elimination
  - M&E of progress towards elimination
  - Prevention of re-establishment of transmission
  - Subnational verification and national certification
  - Innovation and research
  - Glossary

**Writing/peer-reviewing responsibilities assigned to experts and advisors (WHO staff in support)**
Phase 2

August 2015 -> Montreux meeting, 14-15 December 2015

- Development and peer-review by experts of all sections of the new draft guidance (September-early November)
- Consolidation into one 134-page document (early December)
- Comprehensive analysis and review of the draft during the December Montreux meeting (larger participation, 11/13 attending)
- Decision points of the Montreux meeting:
  - Rewriting work/synthesis to be done jointly by WHO-MACEPA staff based on a final and detailed outline (next slide)
  - Specific components to be developed by experts/GMP coordinators, e.g.:
    - Annex on diagnostic tools (A. Bosman)
    - Short section on surveillance (A. Schapira)
    - Annex: Details on the biology of malaria incl. illustration with a diagram as well (A. Schapira)
    - Definitions: re-introduction vs re-establishment; 1st/2nd/3rd generations; case and focus classification (A. Schapira)
August 2015 -> Montreux meeting, 14-15 December 2015

• Introduction
• Chapter 1 – Principles of malaria elimination: verification/certification, continuum, case and foci classification...
• Chapter 2 – The “what”: Interventions
  • Optimizing vector control and case management: receptive/vulnerable areas, stratification...
  • Surveillance: including entomological surveillance and data quality..
  • Clearance of parasites: dealing with foci, asymptomatic carriers...
  • Cross-cutting issues: health systems strengthening, inter-sectoral collaboration, cross-border collaboration
• Chapter 3: The “how”: Management and planning
  • General elimination vision (reference to chapter 1)
  • Planning process (stratification)
  • Data for decision-making (M&E): indicators from strata to foci, indicators, independent elimination committee
  • Programme structure and management: malaria programme structure and functioning; enabling environment
• Chapter 4: Verification and certification
• Chapter 5: Prevention of re-establishment
• Chapter 6: Role of R&D: program innovation, programmatic unknowns, new research and tools
• Annexes
Guidance development, step 3 – work ahead

**Prep. work**
- Review of the draft guidance
- Clear and detailed outline set

**Deep dive into the manual**
- Consensus on the gaps and suggested changes
- Outline of new guidance and each chapter
- Focal point to coordinate the process of collecting revised sections and compilation of inputs

**Experts to develop working papers, conduct in-depth search or review papers/collection historical experience**

1st ERG meeting
- New Delhi
- July-Aug 2015

2nd ERG meeting
- Montreux
- Dec 2015

**Consultative process**
- Discussion at regional meetings
- ITWs with programme managers

**Final review**
- Write, synthesize and rearticulate (WHO-PATH/MACEPA)
- 3rd ERG meeting
- China
- 2-3 June 2016

**Feedback consolidation work**

**Production & publishing**
- MPAC presentation
- 14-16 Sept 2016
- Launch in Cairo (TBC)
- Oct-Nov 2016

**Regular teleconferences as needed**
- Ongoing interactions with GMP coordinators

Global Malaria Programme