



Malaria Week Dialogue: Sustaining Health Financing in a time of Crisis

Logistics

- **Date:** 9 September 2020
- **Time:** 13:00 hrs Hanoi time /14:00 hrs Singapore time
- **Duration:** 120 Minutes
- **Format:** Moderated by a facilitator
- **Co-hosts of the session:** Dr. Peter Cowley, WHO and Dr Susie Perera from Government of Sri Lanka (TBC)

Background

Many countries in Asia Pacific have made significant gains in the fight against malaria. The Greater Mekong Subregion has seen an 80% reduction in cases and a 95% reduction in deaths since 2012. Other countries are also making sustained progress, with India reporting the largest reduction in cases among the global high-burden countries - 49% in only one year (2018). These results have been underpinned by large increases in financing, especially domestic resources.

However, this progress is uneven and may prove transient. Some countries have experienced the opposite trajectory with declining resources to fight malaria linked to an increased number of cases.

The coming years will be critical. The impact of Covid-19 may carry huge repercussions. The world economy is experiencing an unprecedented recession, which is negatively impacting government revenues, ODA and health budgets across the world. At the same time, modelling by WHO indicates that Covid-19 may lead to a substantial increase in malaria cases and deaths globally.

In this time of uncertainty and reduced revenues, it is critical for the malaria community to come together to advocate sustained financing for health.

Objectives / Outcomes

The session will:

- Review the potential impact of COVID-19 on government revenues and budgets;
- Highlight how reduced financing may jeopardize the malaria elimination goal;
- Identify actions to sustain health financing for critical services;
- Recommend collective priority actions to sustain financing in Asia Pacific.

Key topics / questions

Sustaining Health Financing in a time of crisis

- Sustained health financing is required for meeting SDG 3, including the malaria elimination goal in Asia Pacific.

- Malaria can resurge quickly. In the past 80 years, reduced malaria funding and fading political commitment have contributed to many of the 75 resurgences of malaria in 61 countries globally. Thus, adequate financing is a prerequisite for eliminating malaria.
- Issues to discuss:
 - How is COVID-19 impacting health budgets in Asia Pacific?
 - What can we learn from history, and what are the potential links between malaria resurgence and reduced financing in our region?
 - What can we do as a community to sustain health and malaria financing during this critical period?

Tentative Program

Time	Themes	Presenter
14:00	Introduction Opening Remarks Objectives of the session and the Rationale	Lisa Robins, APLMA Peter Cowley, WHO Dr. Susie Perera, Sri Lanka
14:20	Opinion Poll	
Sustaining Health Financing in a time of Crisis		
14:25	Impact of Covid-19 on Government Revenues and Health budgets;	Dr. Peter Cowley Coordinator Health Policy and Service Design Unit World Health Organization
14:37	Past malaria resurgences, and the link to decreased financing;	Dr Susie Perera, Deputy Director General Public Health Services Ministry of Health Government of Sri Lanka
14:49	How to make a case for increased/sustained financing in a period of a fiscal contraction.	Dr. Indu Bhushan, CEO of Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB - PMJAY) and the National Health Authority (NHA), Government of India
Break (10 mins)		
Breakout Sessions		
15:10	Following issued to be discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget outlook in represented countries; • Making the case for sustained financing; • If there are budget cuts, what is the right course of action? 	Breakout chairs: WHO, APLMA, ADB. UCSF
15:55	Wrap up: summary of discussions and priority actions	WHO/APLMA