



A Malaria Week Dialogue: Harnessing innovation to accelerate malaria elimination and strengthen health security

Tools and approaches to cure relapsing malaria

**Malaria Week 2020
September 2020**

Date: 10 September 2020

Time: 1.00pm-3.00pm Hanoi Time

Duration: 2 hours

Moderator: Jost Wagner, Change Initiative

Co-Chair: Dr Sandii Lwin, Founder & Managing Director at Myanmar Health and Development Consortium

Co-Chair: [TBC] Country representative

Panelists:

1. [TBC] Country representative
2. [TBC] Country representative
3. [TBC] Country representative
4. [TBC] Ms Jayeeta Chowdhury, India Health Fund
5. Mr Robin Davies, Director, Indo Pacific Center for Health Security
6. Dr Caroline Lynch, Medicines for Malaria Venture (VivAccess)
7. Dr Gonzalo Domingo, PATH

Other Speakers

1. Dr Kamala Thriemer
2. Dr Marie Lamy (Commentator)

Introduction:

APLMA is supporting the Government of Viet Nam to host virtual *Malaria Week 2020*, convening high-level government officials using an online meeting platform to work together for elimination of malaria from Asia and the Pacific by 2030.

The main event of the week will be the APLMA Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM), which will include a breakout session on the importance of innovative tools to eliminate all species of malaria. This dialogue is part of a series of online roundtables entitled *Malaria Gamechangers: A Health Innovation Series*

About Malaria Gamechangers: A Health Innovation Series



The purpose of this series is to accelerate the introduction and uptake of existing and novel tools as well as delivery approaches that are critical to malaria elimination in Asia and the Pacific and will further contribute to strengthening health security. The objectives are to highlight:

1. Health innovations are a key component of national and global efforts to tackle existing and emerging infectious disease outbreaks such as COVID-19 and existing health threats such as malaria.
2. Existing tools and approaches being used by national malaria programs may be insufficient to achieve elimination by 2030 in Asia Pacific. However, innovative tools and approaches are available. These include more effective diagnostics as well as shorter treatment regimens which make it easier for countries to find, test and treat every case.
3. New tools take time to introduce due to technical and policy barriers and senior officials have a role to play in helping to resolve potential bottlenecks.
4. Streamlined regulatory and policy pathways for the introduction of new malaria tools are critical to elimination. For products with potential public health benefits, senior officials can advocate for expedited approval and policy adoption of these tools to safely accelerate access for vulnerable populations.
5. Whole-of-government coordination is key to scaling access to new malaria tools. Senior officials are ideally placed to unite efforts from ministries of health, finance, commerce and trade and other relevant agencies to overcome bottlenecks along the path to scaled access and malaria elimination.

Malaria Gamechangers: tools against relapsing malaria

This session will focus on the burden of relapsing *P. vivax* malaria in Asia Pacific as one of the key remaining challenges to achieving elimination. The panel discussion will highlight the importance of access to and the roll out of a safe radical cure for relapsing malaria, to reduce transmission and support elimination as well as stronger health security in the region. Panellists will explore existing strategies, how these can be applied more effectively, as well as new tools that can help accelerate progress to eliminating *P. vivax*.

The discussion will aim to build momentum and support among senior officials to understand their role in improving access and supporting the effective roll out of malaria tools. This includes putting in place the right building blocks by supporting a stronger regulatory system and encouraging cross-ministerial collaboration on the introduction of these solutions.

The roundtable will highlight lessons learned from COVID-19 in terms of research and development, supply chain and access bottlenecks and solutions. The roundtable will also address the impact of the pandemic on access to essential health commodities including diagnostic tests and treatments for malaria.

Discussion topics

- **The impact of COVID-19 on access to health commodities**
 - Securing supply chains to avoid stock outs of existing health commodities to sustain efforts against existing infectious disease in times of a pandemic
- **The rising comparative burden of relapsing malaria (*P. vivax*)**
 - The epidemiological landscape of *P. vivax* malaria against elimination timelines for Asia Pacific; the risks of ongoing transmission
- **Solutions to address *P. vivax* malaria: existing and new radical cure options**



- Existing strategies applied more effectively including variations in duration and dosage of primaquine e.g. Indonesia and Papua experience
- New treatment options to address patient adherence, including tafenoquine
- Ensuring safety of radical cure treatment by using G6PD point-of-care tests given the 5-30% G6PD deficiency rate in the region.
- WHO guidance for optimising treatments for *P. vivax*
- **Paving the way to effectively introduce treatment options for infectious diseases**
 - Timeline for the revision of WHO recommendations for vivax radical cure.
 - Working across ministries (e.g. health, trade, commerce) to support access to existing and new health commodities that support infectious disease response.
 - Domestic mechanisms to gather national expert assess the use of innovations within the health system and data
 - Supporting more flexible regulatory review processes for priority tools to support a response to existing or emerging infectious diseases
 - Ensuring quality of tests and treatments in emergency situations through stringent and time efficient regulatory processes

Tentative Program:

Time	Description	Speaker
Opening session		
13:00	Welcome and Process (Introduction to Zoom)	Moderator
13:02	Opening Remarks	Chair & Co-chair
13:10	Introduction by APMEN VxWG	Dr Kamala Thriemer
Panel Discussion		
13:15	Moderated Panel Discussion	Moderator; all panellists
14.15	Q&A session	
Closing Session		
14:45	Summary of key discussions <i>Thailand vivax Policy Roadmap video presentation</i>	APLMA
14:55	Closing Remarks	Co-Chairs
15:00	Announcement of Senior Officials Meeting / Adjourn Meeting	Moderator