

Concept Note

Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016-2025

March 2014

In response to a request by the Malaria Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) in 2012, and an expression of support by member states at the 2013 World Health Assembly, WHO's Global Malaria Programme (GMP) is coordinating the development of a Global Technical Strategy for Malaria (GTS) for the 2016-2025 period. The GTS will articulate the goal and global targets for malaria over the next decade. It will be a unifying document that synthesizes current policy recommendations and comprehensive, evidence-based and cost-effective strategies for WHO Member States to use in developing their own strategies. The document will also provide a platform for ensuring that the impressive gains of the last decade are sustained, and that further progress is accelerated along the pathway to elimination.

The purpose and content for a Global Technical Strategy for Malaria

In recent years there have been many important additions to the arsenal of tools for malaria prevention and control as well as changes in policy recommendations. WHO guidance, however, is currently communicated through intervention-specific guidance documents and recommendations. The GTS will be a single source that describes the global direction of malaria over the next decade and articulates a comprehensive plan that references pertinent WHO recommended strategies and guidance. Countries can increase coverage and targeting of interventions and reduce malaria burden, wherever they are along the spectrum from high burden to elimination, by following the guidance provided from the GTS and, in the process, contribute to achieving global goals for malaria. Most critically, the GTS will be the technical foundation for the Roll Back Malaria Global Malaria Action Plan 2, which will be a call to action for all RBM partners to support countries in implementing the GTS (please see additional information later in this document).

The GTS will address serious threats to global progress in malaria: parasite resistance to artemisinin and its derivatives; mosquito resistance to pyrethroids; weak health systems; and inadequate human resources at all levels of the system. The increasing importance of surveillance and use of data for decision making will be emphasized. Stratification to improve targeting of malaria interventions will accelerate progress, as it is recognized that sub-national areas within a country are often at different stages on the pathway to elimination. The GTS will provide sound technical strategic directions to guide global progress towards malaria elimination, and will direct users to the appropriate technical documents for detailed guidance on implementation. It is recognized that the malaria landscape is continuously evolving and that new tools are certain to emerge within the next ten years. This document will be designed to embrace anticipated innovations and it will address the importance of developing and incorporating new interventions and strategies based on emerging evidence and country needs.

The process of developing the GTS

At the World Health Assembly (WHA) on 27 May 2013, WHO Member States expressed support for the development of the GTS. The GTS is being developed through an inclusive process that draws on existing country and regional strategies as well as consultations with WHO Regions, international experts, and country programmes. The WHO Malaria Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC), which provides independent strategic advice to WHO for the development of policies related to malaria control and elimination, recommended that GMP coordinate the development of a global technical strategy in close collaboration

with the development of the Global Malaria Action Plan 2 led by the Roll Back Malaria (RBM) Partnership. The process of development of the GTS is led by a Steering Committee, composed of 14 leading malaria technical experts, scientists, and representatives of endemic countries. This committee provides guidance to GMP on the development of the GTS, leading evidence reviews, and ensuring that the process is rigorous, inclusive of national and regional inputs and closely coordinated with the development of the Global Malaria Action Plan 2.

In October 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland, WHO held the first of a series of country consultations on the development of the GTS. The meeting was attended by senior malaria experts representing six WHO regions and 16 malaria-endemic countries, the GTS Steering Committee, the Executive Director of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, and senior staff from WHO Headquarters and Regional Offices. Country participants contributed technical input on the development of the GTS based on current challenges to reduce malaria, the potential to accelerate their malaria programmes, and also commented on needs for additional WHO guidance; conceptual elements of a proposed pathway to elimination were also discussed. The key contribution to the GTS development process will be the convening of seven Regional consultations led by the WHO Regional Offices from March to June of 2014.

The timeline for developing the GTS is as follows:

- March to June 2014: development of GTS based on an initial draft at seven regional consultations, in coordination with multi-sectoral consultations on the Global Malaria Action Plan 2 – organized by RBM;
- June 2014: online web consultation period ;
- June–August 2014: finalization of the document by the GTS Steering Committee incorporating expert inputs received at the regional consultations;
- September 2014: submission to the WHO Executive Board for review;
- January 2015: meeting of WHO Executive Board;
- March 2015: submission of final document to the WHA for consideration;
- September 2015: joint release of GTS and RBM Global Malaria Action Plan 2.

Alignment of Global Malaria Programme and Roll Back Malaria Partnership processes

Concurrent with the GMP's GTS development process, RBM is coordinating the development of the Global Malaria Action Plan 2 (GMAP 2), the second generation of an RBM consensus Document which provides the global framework for coordinated action by all malaria stakeholders supporting acceleration of malaria control and elimination efforts. The GTS will serve as the technical foundation for the GMAP 2 and the two documents are being developed in a synchronous, collaborative process with a shared Vision and Goals for malaria over the next decade. A mechanism has been put in place to ensure that the GTS Steering Committee and the RBM GMAP 2 Taskforce will work together to ensure full complementarity of both documents. Four members of the GTS Steering Committee and the GMAP 2 Taskforce sit on both boards as do, in ex-officio capacity, the Executive Director of the RBM Partnership Secretariat and the Director of the WHO Global Malaria Programme. In addition, the Chairs of the GTS Steering Committee and the GMAP 2 Task Force will each serve as an ex-officio member of the other group. It is envisioned that the GTS and GMAP 2 will be launched as companion documents in 2015 after consideration of the GTS by the WHA and adoption of the GMAP 2 by the RBM Board.

Contact

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