

Update on the informal consultation on the development of a capacity-building strategy for malaria control and elimination

Consultation held by GMP and the Malaria Programme in AFRO
on 14–15 March 2018, WHO, Geneva, Switzerland

Background

Effective malaria control requires a host of actors, each with adequate technical knowledge and the ability to use that knowledge to implement recommended strategies in locally appropriate ways. This requires malaria-specific know-how related to vector control, malaria chemoprevention, diagnosis, case management and surveillance. However, effective control also requires an appreciation of the broader health system – supply chains, health information systems and supervision. Technical staff also need relevant cross-cutting skills; for example, the planning and management of malaria programmes requires skills in finance, human resources, leadership and resource mobilization.

In addition to the training courses and materials developed by WHO's Global Malaria Programme (GMP), a number of other courses and training activities on malaria exist. However, these are uncoordinated, of varying levels of quality and with no mechanism to ensure that course content is consistent with current policies or recommended practices.

WHO/GMP is developing a strategy for the sustainable development of human capacity to address malaria in the short, medium and long terms. This informal consultation brought together people with technical malaria expertise and pedagogical skills from some of the key players in capacity-building relevant to malaria. It also drew on the experiences of national malaria control programmes and others close to the realities of implementing malaria control.

The focus was on the needs of those active in malaria control in countries, from members of national malaria control programmes to frontline health workers, others (e.g., NGOs) involved in delivering malaria control, and WHO staff working on malaria.

Meeting objectives

1. To identify key technical and cross-cutting areas, and the target groups, where capacity-building is needed to achieve WHO's Global Technical Strategy targets, and to sustain the gains thereafter;
2. To discuss approaches to ensure that courses and their delivery are of high quality and that course curricula are in line with the latest WHO policies;
3. To review lessons learned from previous successful capacity-building efforts, not necessarily limited to malaria;

4. To consider the potential development of career pathways in malaria control;
5. To identify sustainable and cost-effective models for delivering quality-assured courses at national, regional and global levels;
6. To understand the landscape of existing malaria training activities, identify key partners, and discuss how to develop and implement the capacity-strengthening strategy.