

Proposed ERG on malaria control in humanitarian emergencies

Terms of Reference of the Evidence Review Group
April 2018, Geneva, Switzerland

Background and rationale

In the aftermath of the massive international Ebola outbreaks of 2014 and 2015, Member States have tasked WHO to play the central coordinating role in all matters concerning health, as part of a broader change in the way the international community prevents, prepares for and responds to crises. The Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly, therefore, requested and mandated the WHO Secretariat to set up a new WHO Health Emergencies Programme (WHE) to meet the immediate health needs of crisis-affected populations, while simultaneously addressing the underlying causes of their vulnerability. The new WHE Programme works with countries and partners to prepare for, prevent, respond to and recover from all hazards that create health emergencies, including disasters, disease outbreaks and conflicts. The Programme also leads and coordinates the international health response to contain disease outbreaks. It provides effective relief and recovery to those affected, remaining fully committed to saving lives and reducing suffering during times of crisis – whether caused by conflict, disease outbreak or disaster. This constitutes a profound change for WHO in adding operational capabilities to its traditional technical and normative roles.

At the end of 2017, a record 130 million people worldwide were in need of humanitarian assistance, many of them in countries where malaria is the most prevalent communicable disease and where epidemics of other outbreak-prone diseases are a constant threat. The unprecedented number and scale of parallel, ongoing complex emergencies in which malaria combined with widespread and advanced stages of acute malnutrition is the main factor contributing to excess all-cause child mortality in countries affected and stalling progress on global goals (e.g. SDGs, GTS).

Building on a first edition published in 2005, the second edition of *Malaria control in humanitarian emergencies: an inter-agency field handbook* was published in 2013. However, WHO has released several guidance documents in the last five years that must be taken into account when responding to malaria in health emergency settings. Thus, the Global Malaria Programme (GMP), jointly with WHE and UNICEF and with inputs from various agencies, will develop *A field manual on malaria control in humanitarian emergencies*. The field manual will build on the second edition of the *Inter-agency field handbook* and take into account the relevant guidelines issued by GMP and WHE, current evidence, and the practical experiences and lessons learned since the publication of the inter-agency handbook in 2013. To facilitate this process, it was proposed to establish an Evidence Review Group (ERG) on Malaria Control in Humanitarian Emergencies.

Objectives of the ERG

The ERG on Malaria Control in Humanitarian Emergencies will provide recommendations for the development of *A field manual on malaria control in humanitarian emergencies*.

Specifically, the ERG will answer the following questions:

- a) Which sections, recommendations, examples and annexes of the second edition of *Malaria control in humanitarian emergencies: an inter-agency field handbook* should remain unchanged, which should be updated and which should be deleted?
- b) Which GMP recommendations are of relevance to malaria control in emergency settings and should be included in the proposed field manual, notably those on malaria diagnosis, treatment, chemoprevention, vector control and surveillance?
- c) Which WHE and UNICEF guidance and tools should be included in relevant chapters on detection, validation, risk and needs assessment, grading, planning, coordination, implementation, integrated surveillance and monitoring, and resource mobilization?
- d) Which best practices, innovative delivery services and other evidence on the control of malaria and other communicable diseases in humanitarian emergencies should be included in the proposed field manual?
- e) Which new malaria control tools for vector control in emergency settings should be recommended for continued use or for further operational research?
- f) Which other relevant evidence on the subject, as detected through a comprehensive literature review, should be included in the proposed field manual?

Process

The development of the field manual will be a joint effort by WHO (GMP and WHE) and UNICEF. The Technical Support and Capacity Building (SCB) unit at GMP will coordinate the process.

WHO/GMP, in collaboration with the WHE and UNICEF, will convene an ERG (10–12 members) to review the existing evidence-based policies/guidelines to determine which are relevant to malaria control in humanitarian emergency settings. Additional evidence will be provided to the ERG through the background documents listed in the table (annex). In addition to WHO and UNICEF, other emergency-focused agencies such as UNHCR, MSF, IOM, IFRC, ICRC, MENTOR, WFP and IRC, as well as some national malaria programme managers will be requested to make brief presentations on the challenges faced, best practices and lessons learned in responding to malaria in humanitarian emergencies, and if available, results of operational research.

Just prior to the ERG meeting, there will be a two-day internal WHO meeting on malaria control emergencies. Participants will include selected staff from malaria and health emergency programmes from HQ, Regional Offices (AFRO and EMRO) and Country Offices in malaria-endemic countries that are facing humanitarian emergencies. A portion of the outputs from the meeting will be inputs for the ERG meeting.

All background documents will be shared with the ERG Chair and members at least two weeks prior to the ERG meeting (except for the recommendations arising from the WHO

internal meeting on malaria control in humanitarian emergencies, which will only be available on the first day of the ERG meeting).

The meeting will be held in Cairo, Egypt, tentatively on 29–31 May 2018. It will be preceded by a WHO internal meeting on malaria control in humanitarian emergencies on 27–28 May 2018.

Annex

List of background papers for the ERG meeting on malaria control in humanitarian emergencies

Background documents	Responsible agency / Staff	Remarks
1. Report on the review of the second edition of <i>Malaria control in humanitarian emergencies: an inter-agency field handbook</i>	GMP Consultant, SCB Team, and representatives from WHE and UNICEF	Includes inputs from online survey regarding handbook
2. Synthesis of all technical guidance documents published by GMP for consideration in the proposed field manual	GMP Consultant and SCB Team	
3. Report on evidence review of new vector control tools in emergency settings for continued recommendation, such as impregnated sheeting, or for operational research, such as aerosolized repellents, and possibly other new tools and vector control tools in the pipeline	GMP Consultant (APW)	With inputs from EVC, GMP, TDR and NTD
4. Report on literature review of other published documentation (e.g. integrated service delivery, best practices) to control communicable diseases and/or malaria in humanitarian emergencies	GMP SCB Team	
5. Literature review on prevention and control of malaria among children in areas where severe anaemia and severe malnutrition are highly prevalent	Consultant (WHO/ UNICEF)	
6. Mass drug administration for malaria control in humanitarian emergency setting in Borno State, Nigeria (<i>Case study</i>)	WHO (Country Office – Nigeria, GMP and WHE)	
7. Control of malaria epidemics in Burundi (<i>Case study</i>)	WHO Country Office – Burundi	

Background documents	Responsible agency / Staff	Remarks
8. Prevention and control of malaria epidemics using IRS: results and lessons from South Sudan and NE Kenya (<i>Case study</i>)	MENTOR	
9. Improving access to malaria case management at community level in humanitarian emergency setting in Central African Republic (<i>Case study</i>)	MENTOR	
10. Malaria control in complex emergencies: outcomes, challenges and lessons learned (<i>review of published and unpublished reports by MSF</i>)	MSF	
11. Synthesis of all current WHE guidance documents relevant to malaria control in humanitarian emergencies, particularly related to: • detection and verification of new emergency situations; • risk assessment and grading; • needs assessment and operational planning; • establishment of the Early Warning and Response System (EWARS) for disease surveillance; • new WHE Emergency response coordination mechanisms within WHO and within national and international inter-agency health clusters; • WHE incident management system's standardized set-up and operational functions; • monitoring using WHE Key Performance Indicators (KPIs); • WHE Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for accessing emergency funding and launching emergency relief operations (<i>review of documents</i>)	GMP Consultant and representative from WHE	The consultant will work closely with the WHE Department
12. Coordination, risk assessment, disease surveillance and use of data in humanitarian emergencies (<i>review of published and unpublished reports by WHE</i>)	WHO (WHE)	

Background documents	Responsible agency / Staff	Remarks
13. Coordination and service delivery in humanitarian emergency settings: challenges, best practices and lessons learned (<i>review of published and unpublished reports by UNICEF</i>)	GMP Consultant and representative from UNICEF	
14. Coordination and service delivery, with special reference to logistics management, in humanitarian emergency settings: challenges, best practices and lessons learned (<i>review of published and unpublished reports by WFP</i>)	World Food Programme	
15. Recommendations arising from WHO internal meeting on malaria control in humanitarian emergencies (<i>meeting report</i>)	WHO SCB Team	To be supported by a consultant who will serve as meeting rapporteur