

# Malaria Elimination in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)



Malaria Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC)

17-19 October 2018

Global **Malaria** Programme



World Health  
Organization

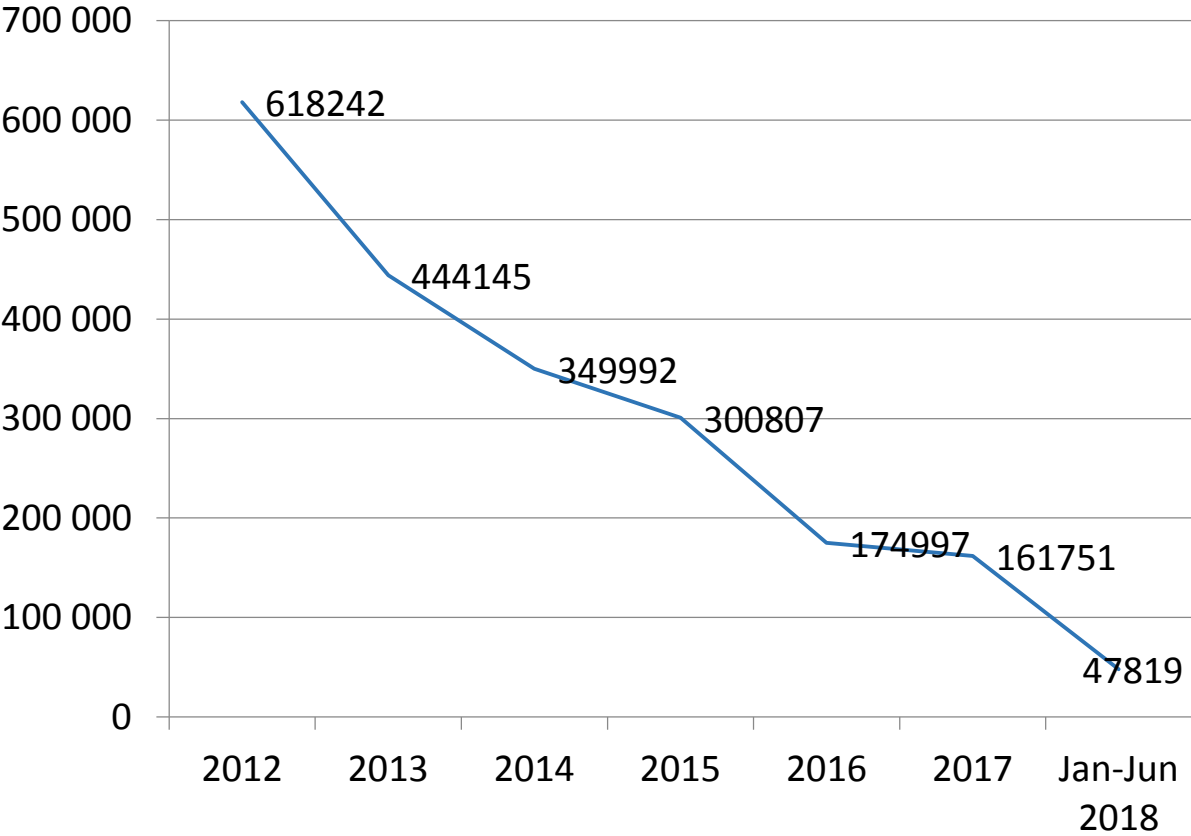
# Outline

- Progress in the GMS
- Key challenges
- WHO Activities for 2018
- Future Priorities
- Summary

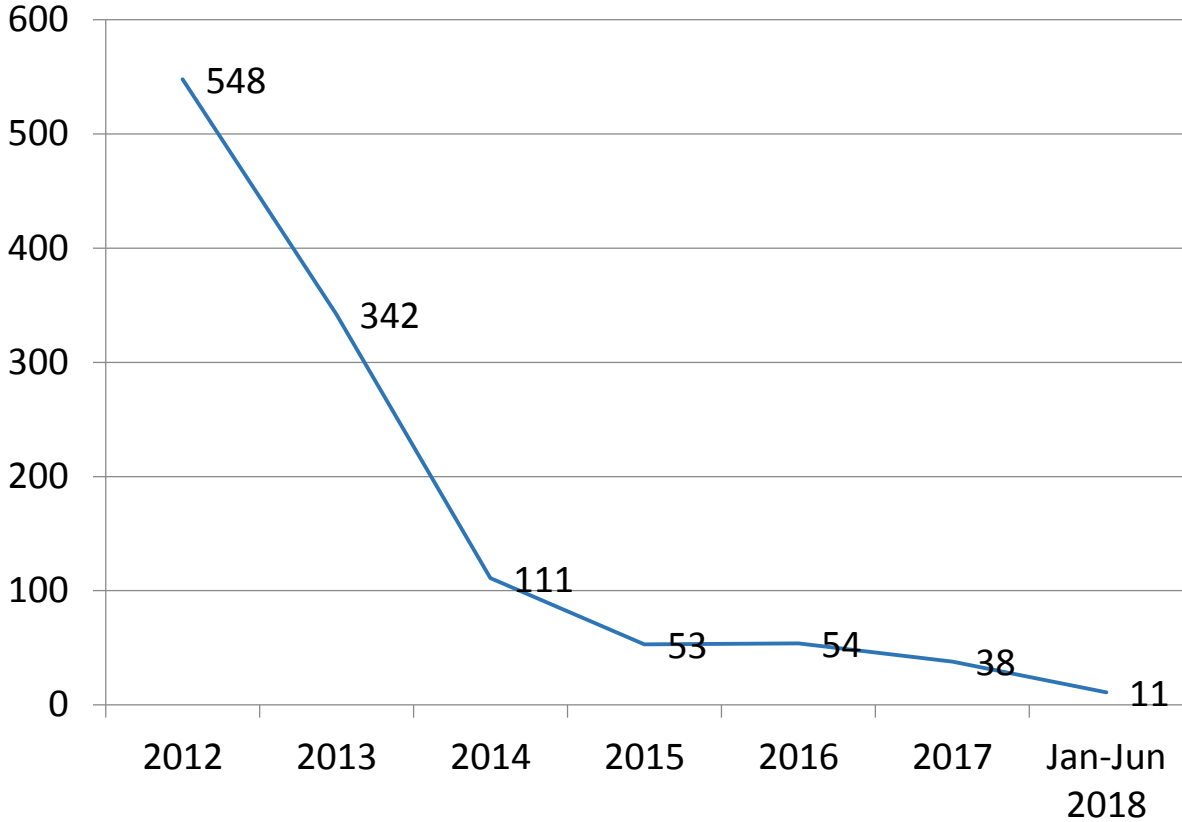


# Progress: Significant case reduction in GMS

## Malaria Cases

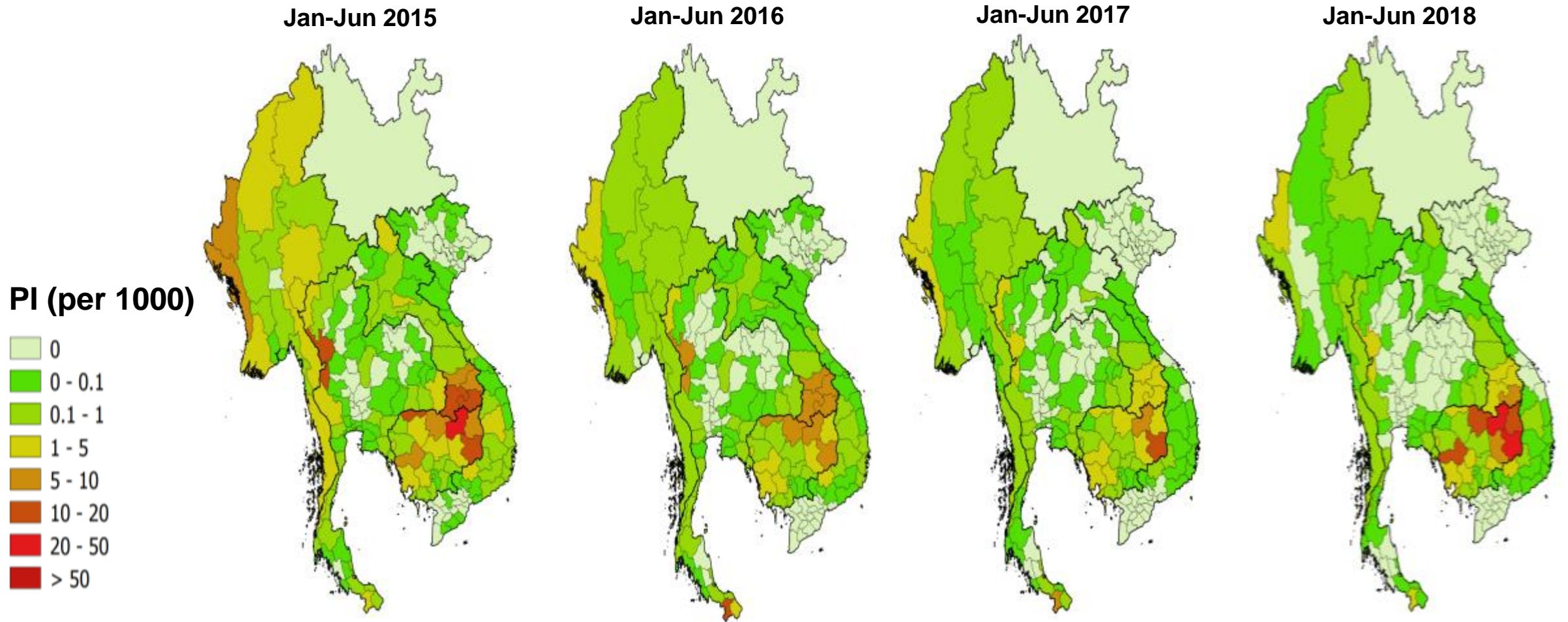


## Malaria deaths



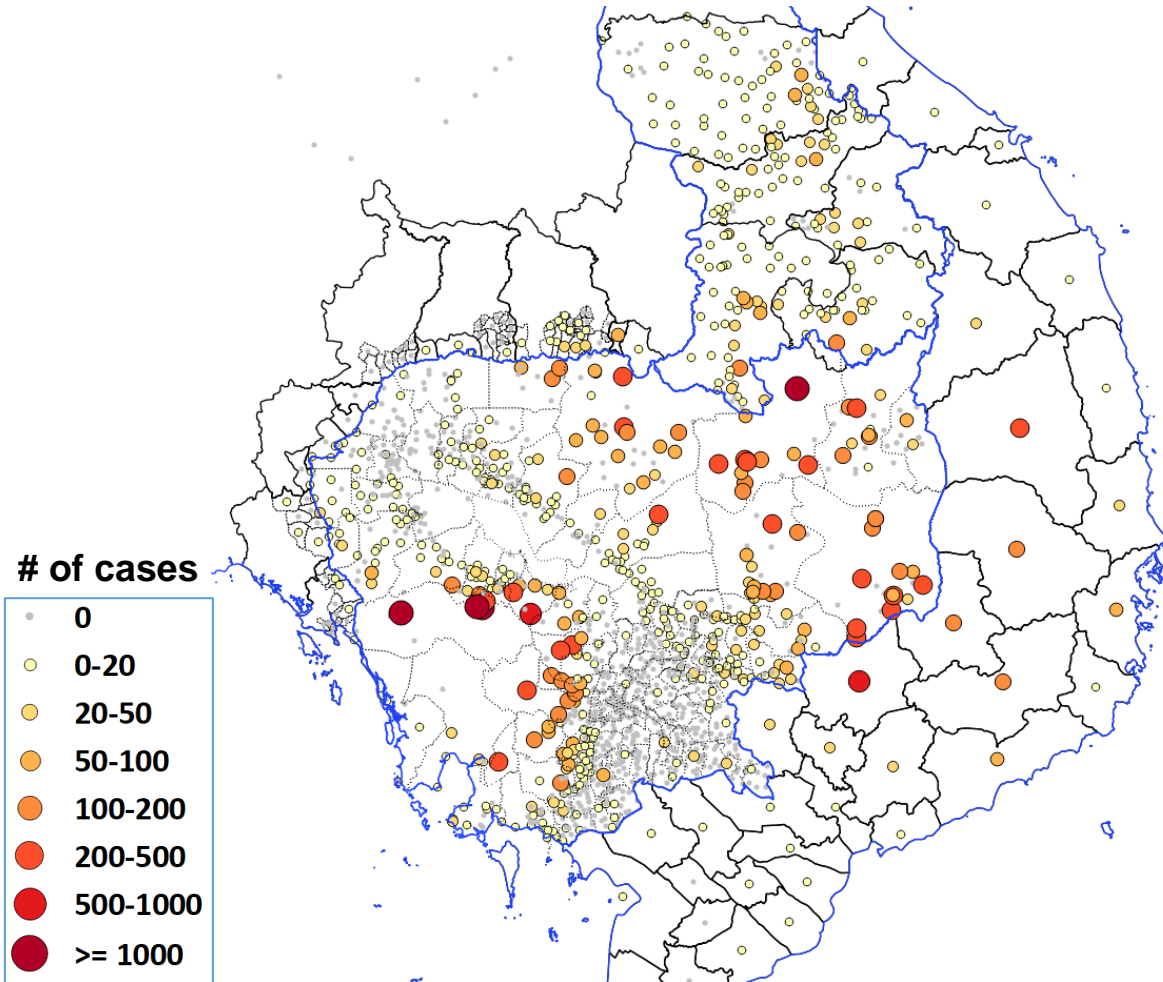
# Progress: Cases are concentrated in a few provinces

## Parasite Incidence (PI) by province



# Progress: Cases are concentrated in a few villages/communities

## Case distribution in Northern Cambodia and adjacent provinces (Jan-June 2018)

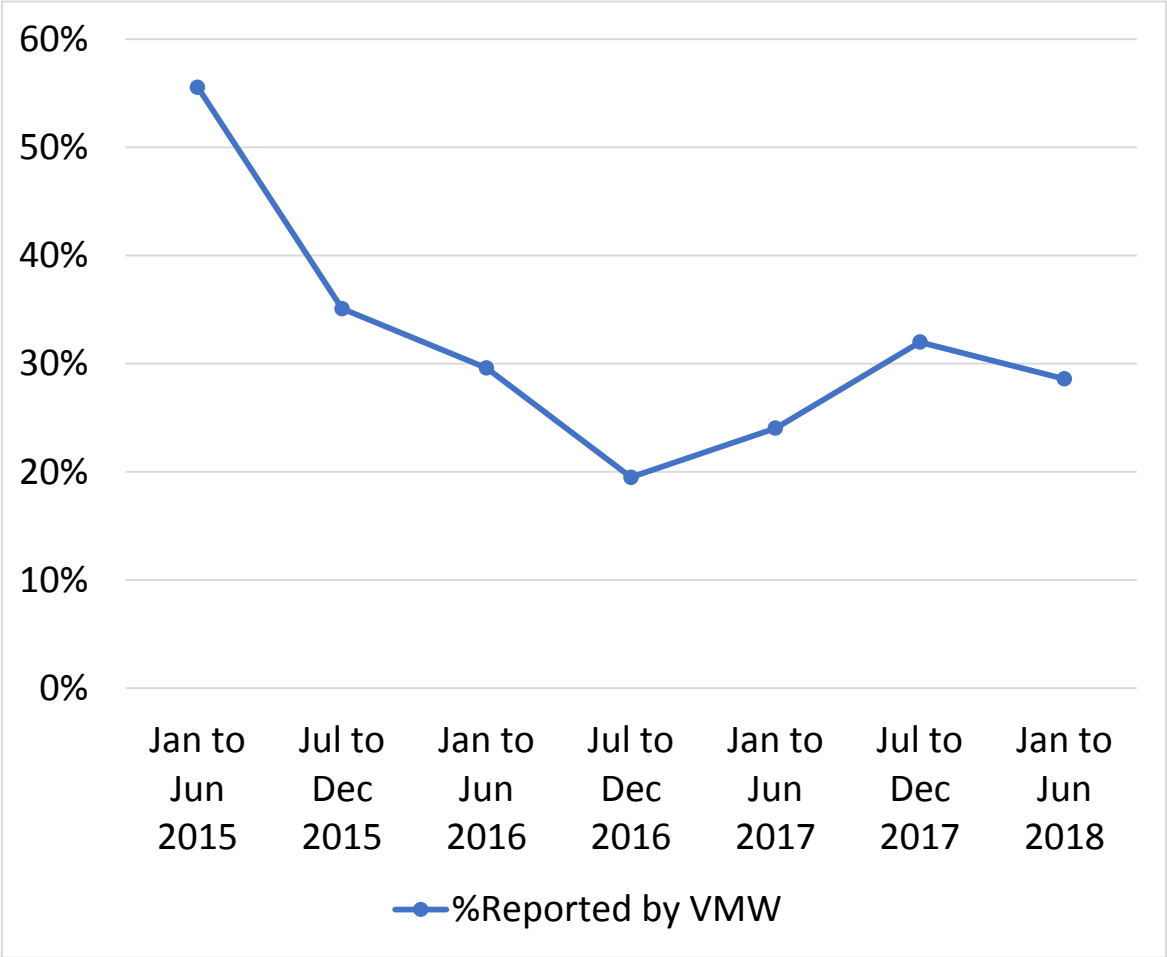


- Cases are **highly concentrated** in a few health centres in Cambodia and Lao PDR
- In both Cambodia and Lao PDR, top 20 facilities account for approx. **40%** of cases, while top 50 account for approx. **60%** of cases (Jan-June, 2018)

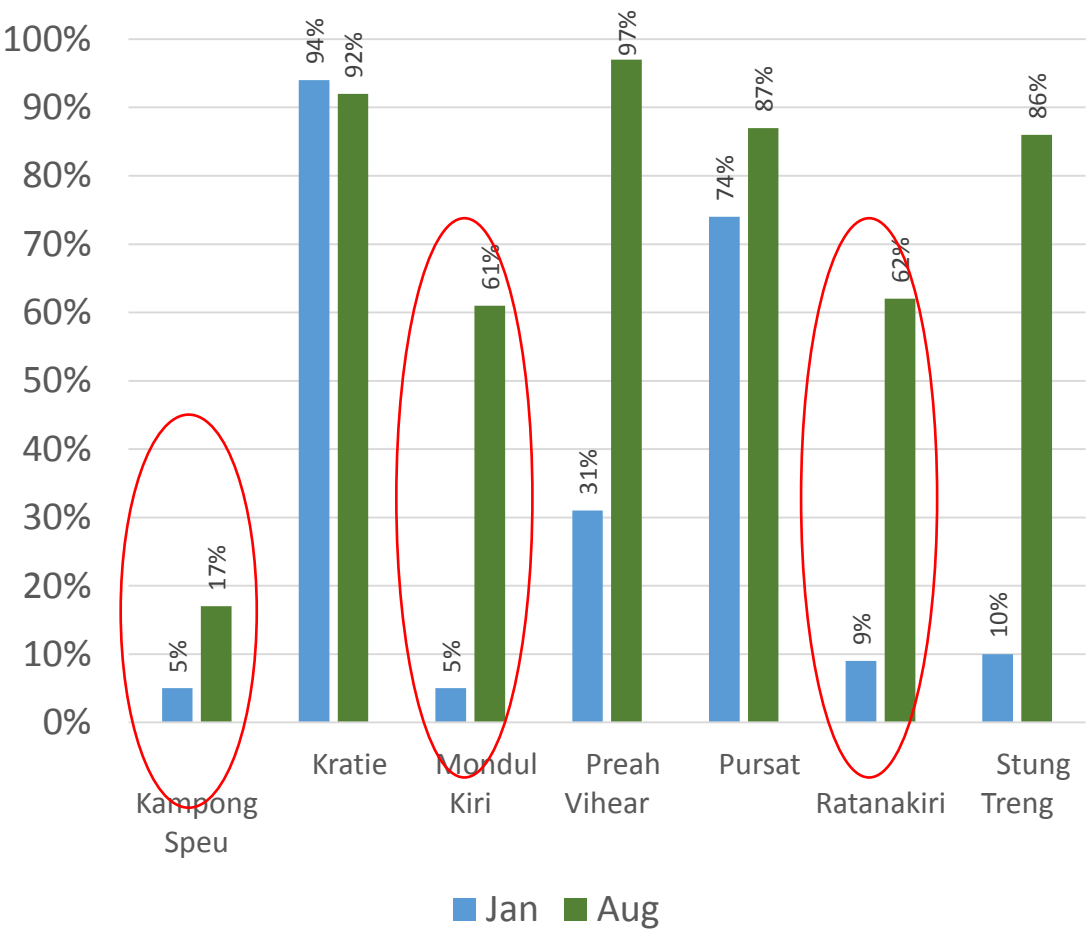
\* Cambodia/Lao PDR/Thailand data are at commune/HC levels. Viet Nam is at Provincial level

# Progress: Reporting by Village Malaria Workers in Cambodia

% of reported cases by VMW biannually  
(2015 1H to 2018 1H)



VMW reporting rate in top 7 provinces  
(January vs. August 2018)





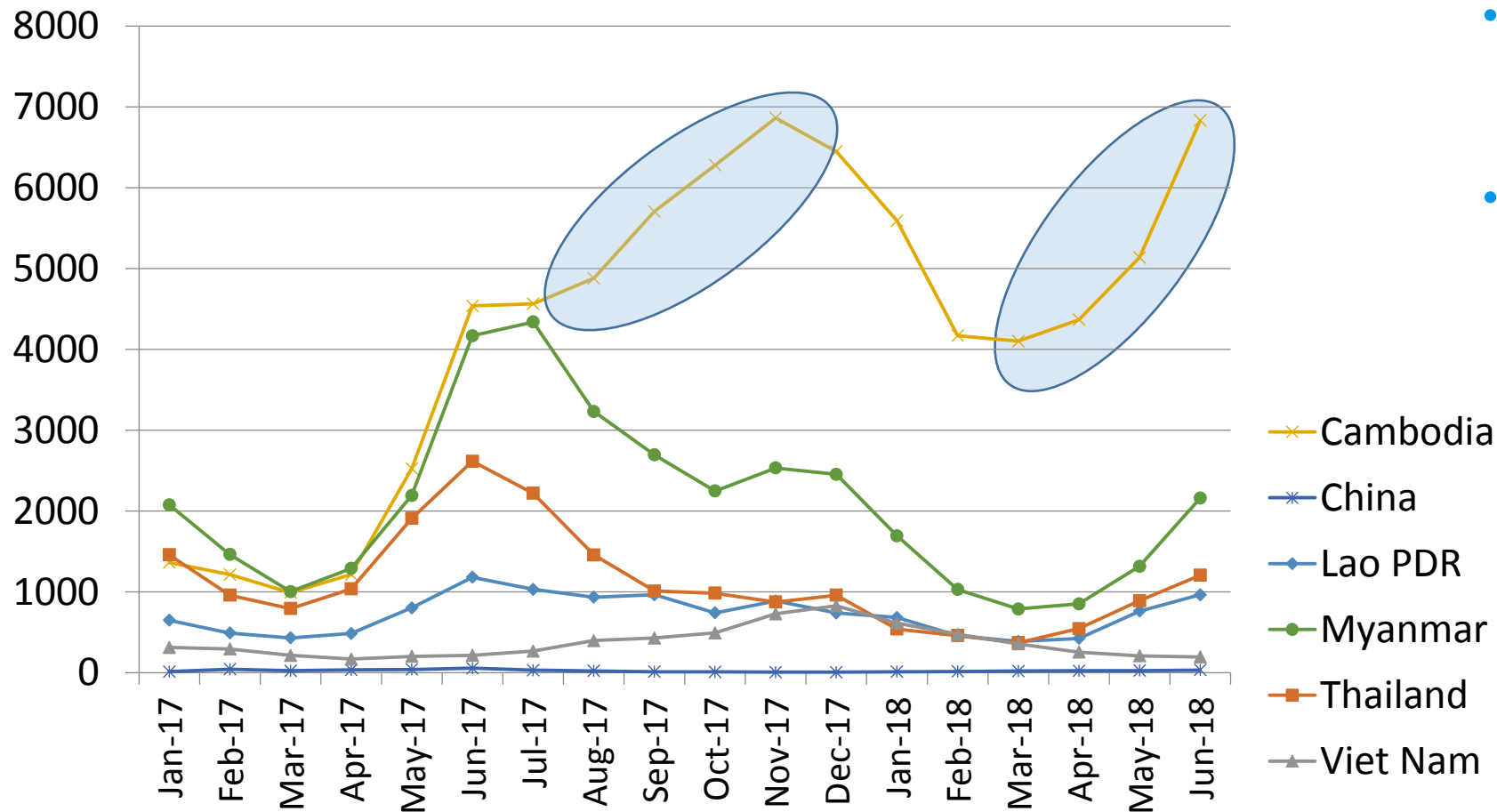
During the World Health Assembly in May 2018, Health Ministers and Senior representatives from GMS countries signed the **Ministerial Call for Action to Eliminate Malaria in the GMS**

- ## Global **Malaria** Programme



# Challenge: Case increase in Cambodia

## Trend of monthly cases in GMS Countries in 2017-2018



- Cases significantly increased in Cambodia in 2H 2017 and 1H 2018
- Possible reasons for increase include:
  - VMW network not fully functional in some places
  - Insufficient reach out to forest goers
  - Delayed switch from DHA-PIP
  - Insufficient coordination among partners and NMCP
  - Environmental factors (e.g. population movement)



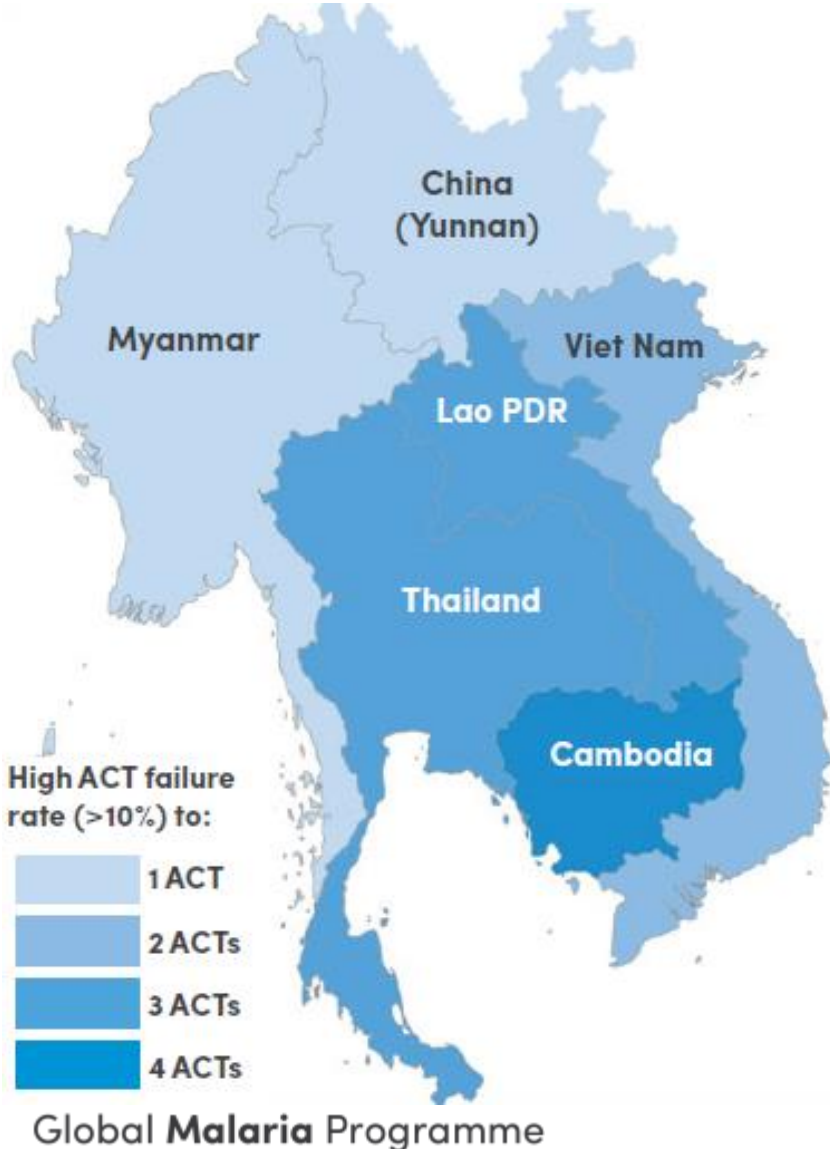
# Challenges: Operation in remaining endemic areas





# Challenge: Continued circulation of multi-drug resistant strains

## Number of ACTs failing in the GMS



- Recent Therapeutic Efficacy Studies (TES) indicate that multi-drug resistant strains continue to circulate in GMS countries, especially east of Bangkok (i.e. Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Viet Nam)
- Still, GMS countries have multiple (at least two) ACT options effective for all parasites.
- The current challenges are largely policy-related and implementation, not biological.
  - Timely revision and implementation of national treatment guidelines based on TES data
  - Identification of second-line ACTs
  - Registration of all available ACTs

# Challenge: Issues in Surveillance

## Key Areas of Work

## Challenges

### Data Collection and Reporting

- Include surveillance data from partners and private sector
- Timely reporting of aggregated data to the national database
- Implement case-based surveillance and iDES

### Data Use

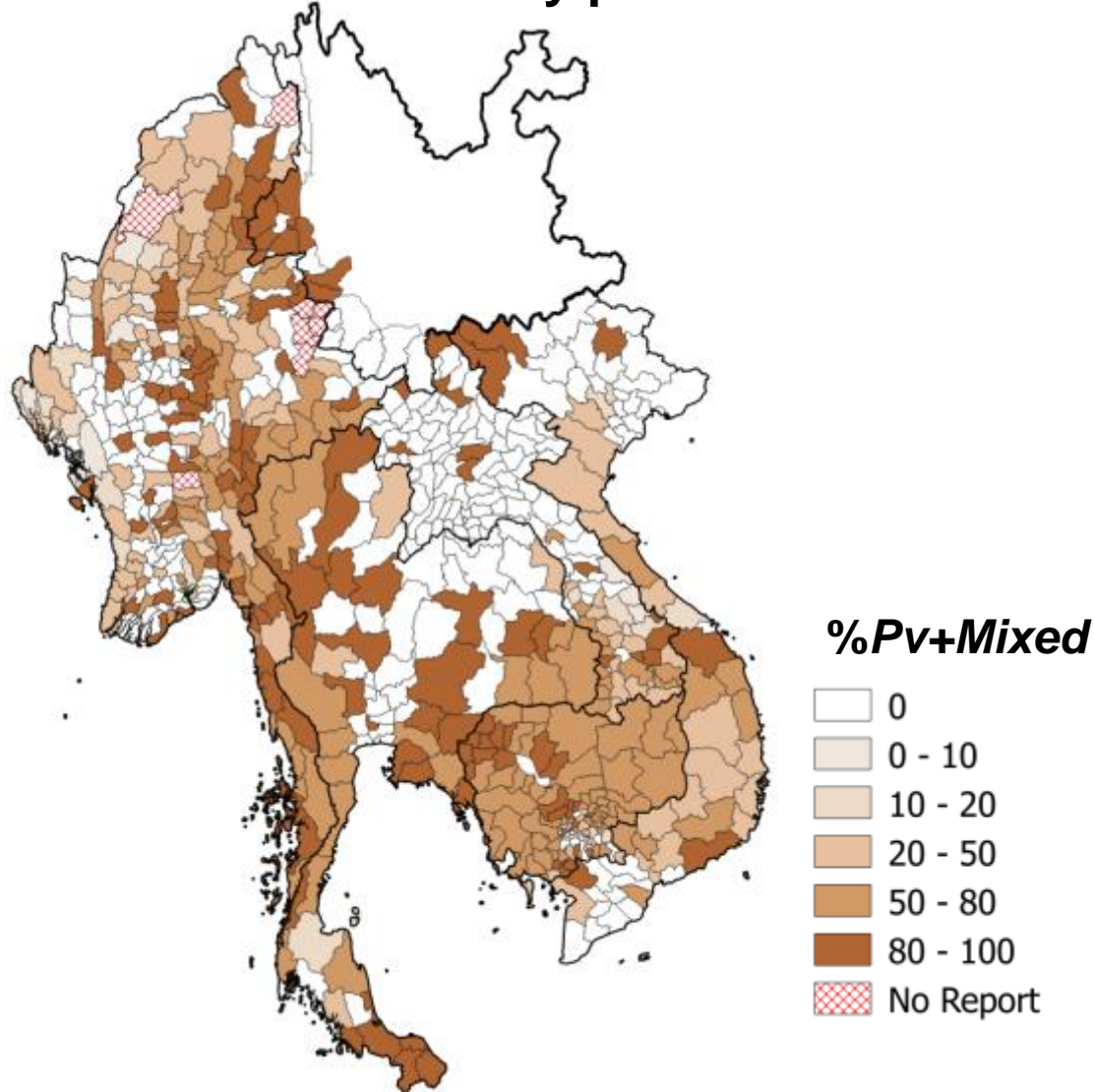
- Analyse & share surveillance data especially sub-national levels
- Take timely programmatic actions

### Validation

- Regular validation of surveillance data
- Surveillance assessment

# Challenge: Circulation of *P. vivax* cases

## % of *P. vivax* cases by province



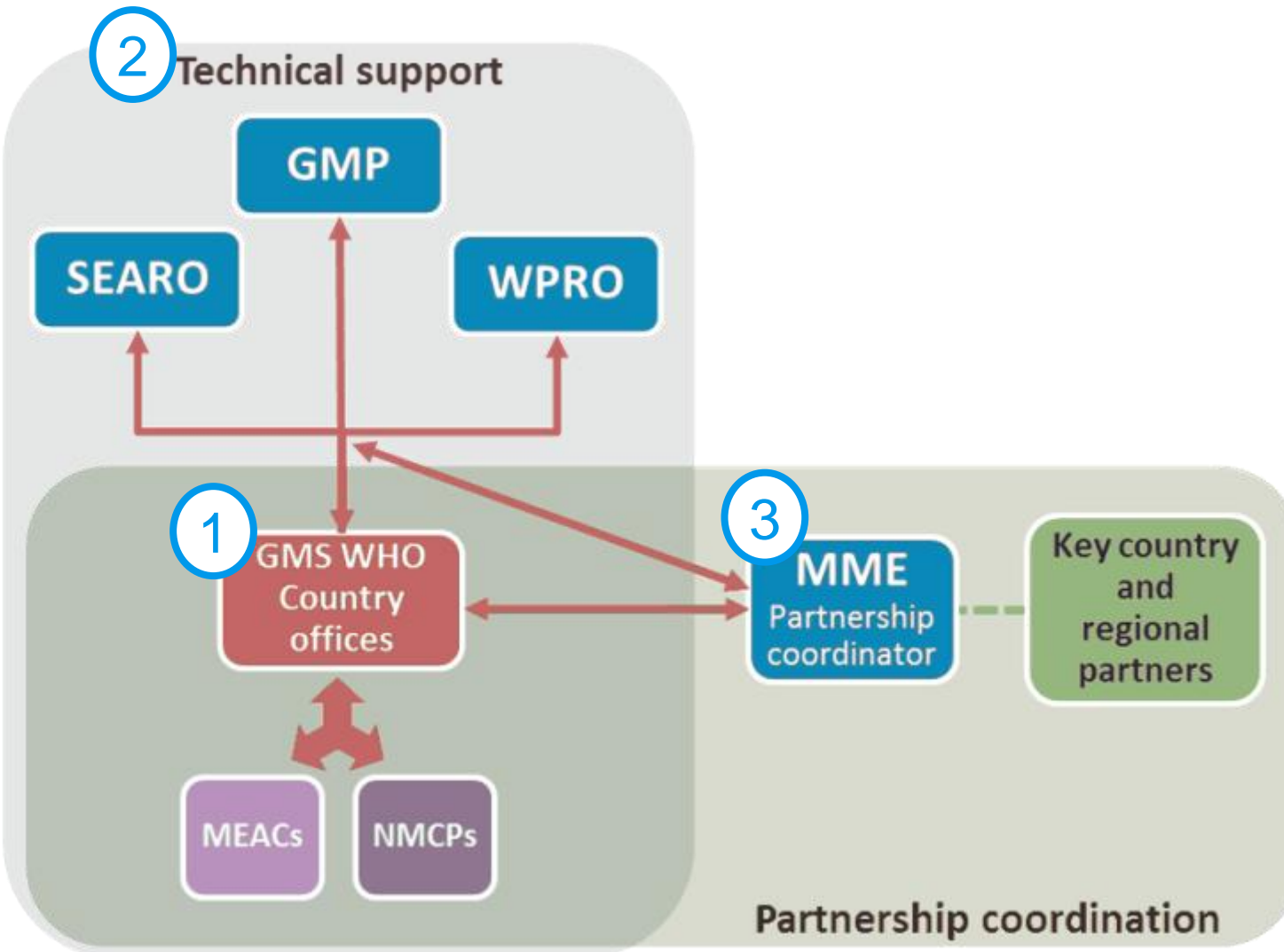
- In Jan-Jun 2018, **59%** of cases were *P. vivax* or *P. vivax* + *P. falciparum*
- Relative importance of *P. vivax* cases is **likely to increase** as countries approach elimination
- Insufficient or lack of implementation of radical cure with primaquine in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam

## Trend in Pf/Pv cases by country

### % of Pv-mix cases by country

Country	2015	2016	2017	2018 1H
Cambodia	50%	48%	46%	67%
Lao PDR	60%	63%	51%	44%
Myanmar	40%	43%	32%	45%
Thailand	67%	76%	84%	86%
Viet Nam	54%	44%	37%	43%

# Structure of WHO activities in GMS



## Major Objectives

1. **Country Offices** continue support to national malaria elimination programmes
2. **HQ and Regional Offices** ensure timely technical support
3. **Mekong Malaria Elimination (MME)** team addresses partnership coordination and cross-country issues



## New “Malaria Intensification Plan” in Cambodia (October 2018)

- MoH, Cambodia with WHO and partners launched the new intensification plan, targeting hard-to-reach populations
- The plan has two objectives:
  - Objective 1: To strengthen program coordination and ensure full implementation of MEAF interventions
  - Objective 2: To implement aggressive approach in populations with highest risk with Mobile Malaria Workers (MMWs)
- All eligible forest goers receive forest packs (LLIHN, insect repellent, health education leaflet) and pre-exposure treatment\*

\* Piloted in 2 provinces (Mondulkiri and Ratanakiri) for 6 months before scale up

## Proposed priorities for 2019 and beyond

Given the remaining challenges, the following may be priorities for WHO as the GMS approaches elimination:

- Strengthen **technical support at sub-national levels** in endemic areas to improve operations, particularly in remote areas
- Help countries **monitor drug efficacy** (esp. implementation of integrated drug efficacy surveillance) and **update/implement national/sub-national treatment guidelines** accordingly (inc. use of low dose primaquine and Pv radical cure)
- Support the **implementation of the Ministerial Call for Action**, including the Independent Oversight Body
- Help countries scale-up elimination programme (e.g. **case-based surveillance**)
- Assess and support **implementation of new approaches/tools** (e.g. new ACTs, prophylaxis among forest goers, and impregnated hammock nets)

# Summary

- GMS countries significantly reduced the number of malaria cases from 2012-2017. As a result, malaria cases are concentrated in small geographical areas, requiring the strong focus of programmatic activities and the strengthening of technical and operational support in these places.
- Major common challenges include: project implementation among forest goers in remote areas, monitoring and addressing multidrug resistance, and improving surveillance.
- Under the revised support structure, WHO HQ, RO, CO as well as the Mekong Malaria Elimination (MME) team support malaria elimination in the GMS.
- As GMS countries approach elimination, WHO continues to support National Malaria Control Programmes to address new challenges and priorities in the next biennium.