

**Seventy-third Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia
Statement by Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV)**

Agenda Item 9.7 Intensifying activities towards control of dengue and elimination of malaria in the South-East Asia Region (SEA/RC71/R4)

Thank you Chair,

Medicines for Malaria Venture is a public-private partnership dedicated to eliminating malaria by discovering, developing and facilitating the delivery of next generation antimalarials.

The malaria community has ten years to realise the bold targets for malaria elimination set out in WHO's Global Technical Strategy. Impressive progress has been made in reducing malaria cases and deaths in the WHO South-East Asia Region. However, these gains are fragile.

South-East Asia faces two key challenges, antimalarial drug resistance and the world's highest burden of *Plasmodium vivax* malaria. *P. vivax* elimination means tackling the dormant liver-stage causing relapse and requiring 14-days of treatment with primaquine, to which patients rarely adhere. Yet, a simplified radical cure - treating the blood- and liver-stages - is essential for successful malaria elimination.

Antimalarial resistance and the high *P. vivax* burden require new tools for better management. For *P. vivax* this includes point-of-care G6PD tests and shorter treatment regimens including 7-day primaquine and single-dose tafenoquine. MMV, National Malaria Control Programmes and partners are generating nationally relevant evidence and readying health systems for new tools.

To enable malaria elimination by 2030 Member State leadership is crucial for:

- Continued investment into Research & Development in tools to defeat the evolving malaria parasite
- Better use of existing tools and their access to underserved populations
- Accelerated policy and procurement processes for the introduction of new tools
- Increased domestic financing for malaria to ensure the long-term sustainability of elimination efforts

MMV would like to thank health workers for their dedication and service to maintain elimination efforts in these extraordinarily challenging times.