

## Executive Summary

Despite the fact that malaria is endemic throughout much of the Asia Pacific region, significant reductions in mortality and morbidity have been achieved. Eleven countries in this region are taking advantage of this progress and have embarked on the task of malaria elimination. These countries, as well as leaders and experts from key multilateral and research agencies in the region, have established the Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network, or APMEN, to support the countries in achieving this historic goal.

While much of the attention from the malaria community has historically focused on countries in Africa, the *Atlas of the Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network* provides an opportunity to examine malaria in those countries of the Asia Pacific region that are pursuing malaria elimination. The *Atlas* identifies the similar challenges that these countries face in health and development status, malaria burden, transmission risk, and vector behaviors. The *Atlas* is a visual tool to assist the national programs of these eleven countries as a resource to raise global awareness about national and regional efforts to control and eliminate malaria.

Malaria transmission in the Asia Pacific is highly heterogeneous, especially in areas of low transmission. Malaria risk is dependent on a variety of factors, including the distribution of human population, vector abundance and biting and breeding behavior, socioeconomic development, and access to and coverage of malaria control interventions. The *Atlas* presents country-level maps of some of the key determinants in planning for malaria control and elimination. These include:

- *Plasmodium falciparum* and *P. vivax* transmission limits maps, refined with temperature and aridity data, which provide an estimate of where the malaria risk is and classify risk into unstable, low stable, and stable transmission;
- Human population density maps that show where the population lives in countries eliminating malaria; and
- Maps of the dominant malaria vector species, which together with summary bionomics data, predict where each vector species occurs and how each is likely to behave.

Malaria indicators and health and socioeconomic data for each country are provided to help develop a comprehensive understanding of the health and economic context. To highlight the progress currently being made towards elimination, national and subnational strategic elimination goals, where identified, are included.

The *Atlas* maps present a picture of the recent past, compiled from available data. The *Atlas* is a living document and will change as gaps in data are filled and programs provide updated data reflecting their success in shrinking the malaria map. Through this visual tool, the *Atlas* establishes a baseline of the current malaria situation in the countries of the Asia Pacific region, helping to track progress towards elimination while highlighting the challenges countries face as they move toward becoming malaria free.