



## Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM)

**PARTNER TYPE:**

Government

**MEMBER SINCE:**

2009 (Founding Member)

**CONTACT PERSON:**

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### INSTITUTION BACKGROUND

The Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) is tasked by the Philippine Department of Health and the Philippine Government to supervise, plan, and successfully implement research programs to prevent and control prevailing infectious and tropical diseases in the Philippines.

### PARTNER INSTITUTION ENGAGEMENT WITH APMEN

Since 2011, APMEN has worked closely with RITM through its Parasitology Department and National Reference Laboratory for Malaria and Other Parasitic Diseases.

#### Key Contributions

RITM played an important role in responding to knowledge gaps and providing technical assistance identified by APMEN. As a regionally-based Research Institution, RITM has supported Country Partner in articulating their operational challenges and priority research questions.

- Technical support and guidance by RITM in the initial planning and assessment of the Vivax Working Group (VxWG) Multicenter Primaquine Trial. Through this assessment, one of the primary challenges observed in relation to the use of Primaquine for radical cure was G6PD testing. ([Read more](#))
- RITM worked with PATH and the VxWG team to run a workshop involving selected countries to look at the challenges of introducing routine G6PD testing. ([Read more](#))
- RITM with support from VxWG Research Grants conducted a prevalence study of G6PD and operational issues in applying the test in low-resource areas in the Philippines.
- RITM worked with SRWG, LSHTM and the Health GeoLab Collaborative (HGLC) to support Country Partners in the Pacific to improve their national capacity to disease mapping. ([Read more](#))

It has been working with National Programs in India, Nepal and Papua New Guinea to improve Quality Assurance for microscopy. The Institute hosted its first Implementation Research training course in January 2020 for national disease control programs from PNG, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

## CORE EXPERTISE AND FUNCTIONS

### Technical Support and Training

#### Technical Support

**Quality Assurance for microscopy.** RITM has worked with the National Programs of Nepal, India and Papua New Guinea to build the capacity of microscopists in their programs and established local Standard Operating Procedures. The SRWG Case-Based Surveillance identified this as a need in almost all countries assessed.

**Insecticide Resistance Monitoring,** RITM Entomology Department is primarily involved in the conduct of basic and applied researches on vectors of mosquito-borne infectious diseases such as malaria, dengue, filariasis, and Japanese encephalitis.

Activities include field and laboratory studies on vector mosquito biodiversity and density, and insecticide resistance monitoring activities for the assessment of implemented vector control measures. RITM also conducts entomological investigations in relation to the outbreak of mosquito-borne diseases.

#### Training

RITM provides training in the following areas that APMEN Country Partners and Partner Institutions can leverage:

- Good Clinical Practice and Good Clinical Laboratory Practice
- Research ethics for ethics committee operations
- Biosafety course for general clinical and reference laboratories
- Implementation Research Trainings (4-day course). Designed to bring together program, research and implementation staff to develop a joint implementation research proposal. The first-course run was January 2020 with the PNG and Vietnam National Malaria Control Programs.
- A five-week field-based training course for community health workers to perform malaria microscopy procedures
- Establish a national malaria slide bank and national quality assurance system to maintain malaria microscopy proficiency at the community level
- Malaria RDT quality control

RITM has expertise in the following areas to develop training courses:

- Project Cycle Management for National Programs
- Case Management (Diagnosis, Resistance Management, Surveillance and Treatment)
- Surveillance, GIS Mapping and Quality Assurance and Control
- Vector Control, entomology, parasitology and resistance