Malaria Elimination Initiative (MEI) at the Global Health Group, Institute for Global Health Sciences, University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)

PARTNER TYPE:
Academic

MEMBER SINCE:
2009 (Founding Member)

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INSTITUTION BACKGROUND

The Malaria Elimination Initiative (MEI) at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Global Health Group believes global eradication through regional elimination is possible within a generation. As a forward-thinking partner to malaria-eliminating countries and regions, the MEI generates evidence through operational research, develops new tools and approaches, documents and disseminates elimination experiences, builds consensus, assesses the costs and benefits of elimination, and strengthens the political and financial commitment needed to shrink the malaria map. The MEI leads the Lancet Commission on Malaria Eradication.

Partner Institution engagement with APMEN

The MEI is one of APMEN's founding members and has served as its Co-Secretariat from 2009-2015. Through their grants from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, MEI provided core funding support for the APMEN Surveillance and Response Working Group (SRWG). Some MEI staff also hold key roles in SRWG (Co-Chair and Coordinator) and VCWG (core member).

With support from Sumitomo Chemical, MEI funded workshops on insecticide resistance in 2014 and vector surveillance in 2018 and 2019, APMEN Fellows in 2015 and 2016, Diploma in Applied Parasitology and Entomology (DAP&E) Scholars in 2019, development and maintenance support for the Online Resource Exchange Network for Entomologists (ORENE), and core funding support for the APMEN Vector Control Working Group (VCWG) from 2014-2020.

The MEI has longstanding collaborations with many National Malaria Control Programs (NMP) including Indonesia, Lao PDR and the Philippines. Recently, the MEI together with icddr,b, trained Bangladesh NMP staff on the Entomological Surveillance Planning (ESPT) Tool. The MEI continues to support VCWG and is willing to provide technical expertise on vector control through capacity building (e.g. training) and remote technical assistance to national malaria programs.

CORE EXPERTISE AND FUNCTIONS

Technical Support, Training and Operational Research

The MEI has developed the Malaria Elimination Toolkit, which offers approaches that address challenges in confronting national malaria programs in heterogeneous transmission settings. The MEI team has experts in Advocacy, Economics and Financing, Policy, Surveillance and Response, and Vector Control.

- **Targeting interventions** - The Disease Surveillance And Risk Monitoring (DiSARM) Tool is a spatial intelligence platform built to enable disease control programs to deliver more effective field campaigns.

- **Optimizing efficiencies** - The Malaria Program Efficiency Analysis Tool (MPEAT) helps malaria program managers collect, organize, and track data points related to the technical efficiency of a malaria program.

- **Pharmacovigilance monitoring** - The Primaquine Roll Out Monitoring Pharmacovigilance Tool (PROMPT) is an active surveillance data collection tool to monitor the safety of primaquine for the treatment of Pf malaria.

- **High risk populations** - The Malaria Elimination Guide to Targeted Surveillance and Response in High-Risk Populations (HRP) provides guidance to design and implement data-driven and targeted surveillance and response activities in populations at highest risk of malaria.

- **Reactive case detection** - Reactive case detection (RACD) is a strategy used to identify malaria infections as early as possible, through the screening and treating of household members and neighbours of an individual whose infection was passively identified at a health facility.

- **Assessing district-level readiness*** - The District-level Readiness for Malaria Elimination Tool (DREAM-IT) was designed by MEI to systematically collect district-level information on a range of operational capabilities, which can then be used to inform malaria operational planning.

- **Entomological surveillance*** - The Entomological Surveillance Planning Tool (ESPT) is being collaboratively developed to support country decision-making on vector control strategy and vector control tool selection based on entomological and epidemiology data.

- **Elimination planning** - The Disease Surveillance and Risk Monitoring (DiSARM) Tool is a spatial intelligence platform built to enable disease control programs to deliver more effective field campaigns.

- **Financial transitions** - The Transition Readiness Assessment for Malaria (TRAM) Tool helps national malaria programs, their donors, and their partners prepare to transition from donor financing to domestic funding and management.

- **National investment case*** - The Framework for Developing a National Investment Case is a methodology for developing investment cases for malaria elimination at the country level.

- **Organizational development*** - The Organization Development for Malaria Elimination (ODME) Tool improves service delivery in elimination settings. The tool can be used by any level of a malaria program to apply change management.