

TOWARD MALARIA ELIMINATION IN MYANMAR

Inputs from community and civil society in Myanmar to the Global Fund malaria concept note 2018-2020

On January 29, 2017, in Yangon, representatives from communities most affected by malaria, civil society organisations working in the malaria response and malaria patients gathered in a consultation workshop to prepare inputs to the Global Fund RAI concept note 2018-2020. The workshop was organised by ARC Myanmar, CPI, KDHW, Regional Malaria Civil Society Platform, GMS and APCASO.

Representatives from more than 16 organisations participated in the consultation. PR-UNOPS provided the overview of country situation as well as Global Fund above allocation request from Myanmar. Community and civil society look forward to continuing to work with the National Programme in implementing the elimination agenda and building on the successes achieved during RAI 1.

Inspired by the achievements to date, and guided by Global Fund principles of focusing on populations disproportionately affected, strengthening community systems, and removing barriers to access, in RAI 2, communities and civil society recommend the following activities in support of the National Malaria Programme from the requested above allocation requests from the Myanmar Concept note:

- Assess the situation of volunteers, their responsibility and the incentives (financial and other) connected to their important work for more sustainable options
- Engaging “Vulnerable populations” (including mobile, migrants and ethnic minority groups) through developing and delivering innovative and culturally appropriate communication and education packages and materials
- Utilizing new technologies for needs assessment, planning, implementation, monitoring and expanding services to vulnerable areas.
- Build and learn from sustainable community networks; disseminating prevention tools and commodities;
- Aim for 100% coverage with effective coverage and services in remote/hard to reach (vulnerable) area
- Effective coverage for LLIN distribution with current mechanism and plan. (not suggested for additional procurement but effective distribution required)
- Capacity building of communities in malaria endemic areas, including: civil society led capacity building in leadership and management.
- Retaining and mentoring the trained staff and volunteer and develop incentive system for sustainability.
- Production of Innovative BCC/IEC materials (including elimination message), including video and other communication tools in local languages
- Building partnerships and advocacy with business and corporate sector including private providers
- Operational research
- Integrated surveillance system and regular review and update of Mapping of area coverage, village location for hard to reach area including Mobile and Migrant Population (MMP)
- Cross border collaboration and cross border malaria activities and services at border crossing points (formal and informal border cross)

Community and civil society participation should be designed using the Global Fund's Community System Strengthening (CSS) Framework. The key contents of the Global Fund's CSS Framework have already been articulated in “Towards Greatest Impact and Effectiveness of RAI 2018-2020 - Malaria CSO Ideas”, which was presented and strongly supported at the Regional Consultation Workshop in Bangkok, December 16, 2016.

Participants strongly believe that the participation of communities and civil society working with communities most affected by malaria will contribute significantly to sustainable efforts to control and eliminate malaria in Myanmar.

Towards Greater Impact and Effectiveness of RAI 2018-2020 – Civil Society Position

Background

- Following the Malaria Regional CS Platform consultation and the RAI RSC retreat in October 2016, a CS reflections and priority issues list was shared with members, and provided the framework for a discussion of the CS Platform during a recent preparatory meeting held in Bangkok, 11-13 December 2016.
- CS Platform members from Myanmar, Thailand, Lao PDR, Cambodia and Viet Nam were in attendance at the 11-13 December meeting organised by APCASO under the Global Fund-supported Malaria Technical Assistance Programme, held in collaboration with the regional Malaria CS Platform and the RAI RSC. CS partners were joined by members of the Global Fund Secretariat, UNOPS, the RSC Secretariat, and the RAI Phase funding request main writers for a series of constructive discussions at the meeting.
- CS Platform members are in full support of the RSC's Position paper for the development of the next regional malaria Funding Request and align our proposed priorities with the overarching principles expressed in this paper.
- CS members discussed strategies to be implemented by CSO in close collaboration with the government and other stakeholders toward the ultimate goal of ending malaria in the GMS by making GF-funded malaria programmes reach the hardest to reach populations and achieve maximum impact.

Civil Society Priorities for the RAI Phase 2 Program

In line with and in addition to the strategic areas expressed in the RSC Position Paper, the CS Platform proposed two priority areas for inclusion in RAI 2 programming:

1. *Development and strengthening of community systems to respond to malaria.*

This is beyond strengthening of individual civil society organisations or village health workers - this is an approach that enables communities to serve their own needs. It involves mobilizing, empowering and funding community-based organizations and networks of the people most at risk of malaria, such as ethnic minorities, mobile and migrant populations, to increase their involvement in planning and implementing evidence-based interventions, thus maximizing grant impact.

2. *Removing barriers to accessing malaria-related services.* Recognising that the current policy environment presents several barriers for the hard-to-reach populations to access and utilize services, this intervention would both identify existing barriers, and proactively, advocate for policy coherence for effective malaria response within and across borders. This would serve to maintain national leadership, acknowledge differences in contexts but also ensure harmonisation and coordination in the national and regional policy monitoring and implementation.

The two priority areas are in line with Global Fund's operational objectives #1: focusing on the 'populations disproportionately affected' by the disease, #2: strengthen community response and system; and #3: 'removing human right barriers to accessing services'; and 'support meaningful engagement of key and vulnerable populations and networks in the GF-related processes.'

Both approaches are supported in the new GF Strategy and articulated in the GF Community Systems Strengthening Framework, elements of which include:

- Enabling environments and advocacy;
- Community networks, partnerships, coordination;
- Resources and capacity building;
- Community activities and service delivery;
- Organisational and leadership strengthening;
- Monitoring and evaluation and planning.

Civil society platform members commit to work with country and regional partners to implement these two strategies.

Civil Society and RAI 2 Process-Related Requests

In support of the vision of better coordination, harmonisation and planning across countries through a consolidated RAI Phase 2 grant, civil society:

- Welcome the role of the RSC in providing oversight and guidance to country CCMs; and
- Strongly support RSC representation in country dialogue processes, SR selection, grant writing and negotiation, to the fullest extent possible.

In support of RAI and Global Fund principles of inclusivity, transparency, ensuring meaningful civil society participation in funding request development, grant making and implementation, civil society:

- Welcome the RSC's decision in having three civil society representatives be part of the regional RAI Concept Note writing team;
- Look forward to collaborations with, and support from, the RSC and its Secretariat, and the CCMs towards CS preparatory meetings and processes in the lead up to the country dialogue processes;
- Request for civil society representation in country counterpart 'writing teams' for country components to the RAI funding request.

Further joint positions regarding the RAI 2 grant

We endorse the principle of dual track financing, and call for increased resources for civil society, including funding of the Regional Civil Society Platform and of local civil society organizations to implement interventions, including for service delivery, community systems strengthening and removing barriers to accessing malaria-related services.