

# Country Update

## Thailand

### Story shared by Kantapong Kanchanakulnan (Field Liaison Officer, Sangklaburi)

#### *American Refugee Committee (ARC)*

Through the support from the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, American Refugee Committee has been working collaboratively with government institutions and communities to address the needs for malaria elimination in Thailand.

Sangklaburi is a district in Kanchanaburi province which is adjacent to Myanmar. Majority of malaria endemic villages, especially those in Laiwo sub-district, are in deeply forested and mountainous areas with limited or no mobile phone signal at all. Transportation mode is quite limited, especially in rainy season.

Under the guidance of Bureau of Vector Borne Disease, Ministry of Health in Thailand, the community mobilization activities are designed to complement Thailand's elimination goal by 2024. ARC has worked closely with Vector Borne Disease Unit and District Health Office to reach out to these remote communities for providing malaria services.

#### *Some of the key interventions are:*

1. Collaborate with government institutions, business sectors and communities to raise awareness and build capacity related to malaria case management
2. Train Migrant Health Volunteers, who are capable of communicating migrant languages, to be more knowledgeable on malaria case management in order to address the needs in local level
3. Sensitize business sectors and local administration organization regarding malaria elimination agenda through series of meetings and discussions
4. Organize joint outreach to remote villages with District Health Office and/or Vector Borne Disease Units to test, treat, and track patients.
5. Complement 1-3-7 strategy by working closely with Vector Borne Disease Units.

During Oct 2018 – Apr 2019, there were 35 malaria cases in both Thais and migrants in Sangklaburi, which is only 5% reduction from the same period time last year. About half of these cases are from Laiwo. A small percentage of disease reduction means there is still much work to be done. Though working conditions are quite challenging, we are still committed to work cooperatively with local Ministry of Health to eliminate malaria in the areas we cover by any possible means.

