

MEDIA RELEASE

Malaria Free Mekong, a platform of communities and civil society organizations announces the appointment of Global Fund RAI RSC CSO representatives and alternates

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Malaria Free Mekong, a platform of Communities and Civil Society Organizations (CSO) in the Greater Mekong region announces newly elected CSO representatives to the Global Fund Regional Artemisinin Initiatives (RAI) Regional Steering Committee (RSC) from 2021 to 2023. We are pleased to welcome Prof. Maxime Whittaker and MS. Josselyn Neukom as the RAI RSC members representing communities at risk of malaria and CSOs working with them. Dr. Htin Kyaw Thu and Ms. Khorn Linna will serve as the alternate representatives.

As RAI RSC members, both Representatives will represent the interests of the entire CSO constituency and play a key role in the Global Fund RAI-related decision-making process, to promote transparency, accountability, and good governance of the Global Fund RAI3E grant. As malaria risk is narrowing to remote communities, forests, and communities with limited access to routine health and other public services, both representatives are committed to increasing community ownership in the malaria response. To support this goal, the RSC CSO Representatives will advocate for improved access to and informed demand for services by communities at risk through community engagement at all stages of elimination programming and research. This will include advocating for community engagement to improve the availability, acceptability, and affordability of integrated services, commodities, and tools for malaria prevention, diagnosis, and treatment as well as sufficient resources to strengthen the capacity of the community and community volunteers and use of quality data and information for decision making.

We are confident that Prof. Maxine and Ms. Josselyn's leadership, along with alternate representatives and the RAI3E partners and their experience and expertise will support improvements in products, services, and information needed to reduce malaria risk and better meet the needs of marginalized community members including mobile and migrant populations, ethnic minorities and people living or working in the forest.

The RAI RSC CSO representatives were elected following an open and transparent process engaging all malaria implementing Civil Society Organizations in the Greater Mekong Subregion.

We look forward to fostering a partnership and collaboration to achieve the malaria elimination goal.

Malaria Free Mekong
A platform of communities and civil society organization
Hosted by: ARC (known as ALIGHT)

About the Malaria Free Mekong

The Regional Malaria CSO Platform in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) is a network of communities and civil society organizations from the Global Fund RAI implementing countries: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. Since the starting of the Global Fund RAI grant, the Platform is serving as the CSO constituency engagement mechanism for the Global Fund RAI grant. The platform focuses on community advocacy for accessible and equitable malaria services,

information, and data sharing, and capacity strengthening of the community actors. The platform has 2 seats at the RAI RSC as a voting member since the beginning of the RAI. The platform also has 2 alternate representatives to fulfill the gap of representation and support CSO reps in their RAI related work and community advocacy. CSO platform secretariat hosted by the ARC (also known as ALIGHT) coordinates the process to engage RSC members with the communities and civil society organizations.

About the RAI RSC CSO representatives

Prof. Maxine Whittaker: Is a Dean at James Cook University, Australia. She has more than 35 years of experience in global health including malaria and vectorborne diseases in the Mekong region and outside. She is also working closely with communities and showcased community best practices and their health needs. Maxine has long experience in community research on malaria and vector-borne diseases and publications to support the generation of evidence for community engagement. Maxine was a lead for community participation and engagement in the 1st World Malaria Congress.



Ms. Josselyn Neukom: Has more than 25 years of experience leading malaria and other public health programming in more than 20 countries. Since 2011 she has been based in the Mekong region where she has served as Vice President for the Asia Pacific for Helen Keller International based in Cambodia, Country Director for Population Services International Vietnam, and—most recently—as a senior consultant advising manufacturers of new contraceptive and HIV prevention products as well as the largest digital network of pharmacies in Southeast Asia. Based in Vietnam, her areas of expertise include community engagement, digital health, social and behavior change communication, and public-private partnerships.

About the RAI RSC CSO alternate representatives

Dr. Htin Kyaw Thu: Is a public health professional with more than 9 years' experience in malaria control and elimination in the GMS. He previously worked as Program Manager at Save the Children, GF principal recipient for Myanmar, and managed ~30 multimillion funding portfolio. Dr. Htin is currently working at Malaria Consortium, as a regional representative, overseeing Malaria Consortium's program in Asia. At CSO Platform, Dr. Htin started as Country CSO Focal Point for Myanmar in 2017-2018 and was elected as Alternative CSO Representative to RAI RSC in 2019.



Ms. Khorn Linna: Is a communication and SBCC specialist with over 13 years of professional experiences in communities leading health marketing program implementation including designing strategies, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating program activities for GF and USAID malaria funded projects. She has a strong network and working relationship with malaria stakeholders in Cambodia and other countries in the GMS. She is one of the founding members of the CSO platform.