

YOUTH NETWORK FOR HEALTH (YNH)

Terms of References

Background

The Malaria Free Mekong (known as Malaria CSO Platform, GMS) in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) is a network of Civil Society Organizations (CSO) working toward achieving malaria elimination and Universal Health Care (UHC) goals. The Platform serves as the CSO engagement and consultation mechanism for the Global Fund Regional Artemisinin-resistance Initiative (RAI) and COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM) grants. The Malaria Free Mekong plays a key role in advocacy, communication, and community engagement through different activities, for example, meetings, consultations, site visits, connecting CSOs for technical assistance, and developing capacity in grant implementation. The Platform provides a common space to all CSOs from the GMS that are working on malaria or working with malaria vulnerable and affected communities through other development programs (e.g., for education, human rights, and other health services). It also provides support to the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) CSO representatives in their engagement and participation to Regional Artemisinin-resistance Initiative 3 Elimination (RAI3E) program and other Global Fund related activities.

Purpose of youth network

Globally, youth play a crucial role as mobilizers. From public health to climate change to pandemic response and other social and development issues, they play a change-maker role by igniting social awareness and engagement innovatively. Youth are also proactive in adapting modern technology and digital media which can be leveraged to support improved health and related social outcomes. The proactive and innovative nature of youth has been vital to addressing barriers to improved health in the community. Relative to the potential for youth contributions, to date the involvement of youth in health and pandemic response in the GMS is less than optimal. Ideally, a youth network aims to bring youth together and facilitate their contributions to transferring information in the community through advocacy and awareness raising activities. As part of supporting Global Fund's call for sustainability and transition, this network can play an instrumental role to strengthen community systems as part of the overall health system and support the achievement of malaria elimination and UHC goals. The youth network is a loose network, which does not require formal application. However, interested members need to register showing their willingness and indicating contribution to the network. This TOR is designed to inform the creation of a youth governance body in support of these aims.

Proposed network name: Youth network for health (YNH)

Vision

To increase youth engagement and role in infectious disease and pandemic preparedness and response in the countries of Greater Mekong Sub-region

Objectives

1. To promote youth engagement in pandemic preparedness and response and other key community health program in the GMS

2. To create an opportunity for capacity strengthening of youth in response to infectious diseases including those of major epidemic and pandemic potential

Structure of the network

Two youth from each GMS country will serve as youth network governance members. They will be responsible for leading the expansion of the youth network in their countries. There will be a total 10 youth members (2 from each Mekong country) as the governance body. Gender balance in this governance body will be top priority.

Opportunities

- Participation in selected Malaria Free Mekong and Global Fund related meetings and trainings (face-to-face and virtual format)
- Learning opportunity to gain experience as a community advocate
- Serve their community leveraging other partners and stakeholders

Key focus of youth network

- The network focus at the first stage will be to engage on GF funded responses to Malaria, HIV, TB, and COVID-19, and the other health system strengthening activities
- Advocacy for universal access to quality health services
- Providing peer-to-peer support to increase health awareness and youth engagement to the network

Support from the platform

Malaria Free Mekong will serve as a secretariat of the youth network. It will provide coordination and logistic support to the network for their activities and participation. Youth network members including governance member's contribution is voluntary and no salary payment will be made for their time, however per diem will be provided following local partners' policy or platform secretariat policy. Per diem will be paid for the days youth participate in meetings or activities. The Malaria Free Mekong will provide technical support for youth engagement planning and activity design. It will also provide travel funds/support to selected members to attend selected national and regional meetings, activities, and training. Support will be provided based on the needs and contribution from the members.

Who can join the network

Individuals between 18-30 years who are national of and resident in one of the 5 GMS countries and are interested to engage in health advocacy and activity implementation, are eligible to be part of the youth network. Applications from Indigenous people and people with disabilities are encouraged.

How to apply

Send your CV, one page maximum, explaining why you are interest to be part of the network and how will you contribute to society through advocacy and awareness raising

Revision of TOR

Revision of the TOR can happen based on the request of at least two-thirds of the Network members and/or on the suggestion of the Network Secretariat with CSO Platform approval. Revision request(s) should be in consultation with the CSO Platform.

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