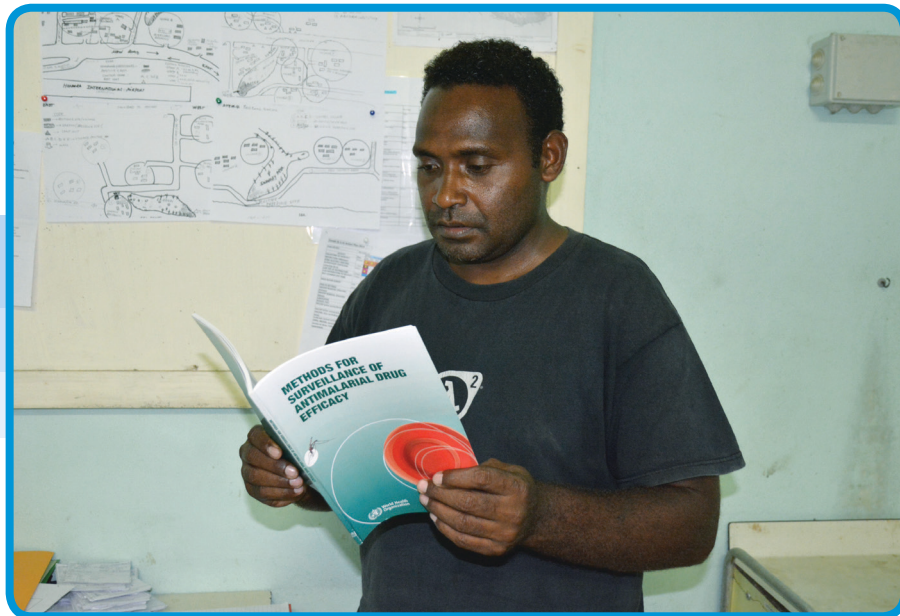


Meeting Report

3rd Meeting of the Pacific Malaria Drug Resistance Monitoring Network



16–17 June 2014
Manila, Philippines



REPORT

**3rd MEETING OF THE PACIFIC MALARIA DRUG RESISTANCE
MONITORING NETWORK**

Convened by:
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Western Pacific Region

Manila, Philippines
16–17 June 2014

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NOTE

The views expressed in this report are those of the participants in the Pacific Malaria Drug Resistance Monitoring Network Meeting and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the World Health Organization.

Key words: malaria, drug resistance, therapeutic efficacy studies, Pacific, regional network

This report has been printed by the World Health Organization Western Pacific Region for governments of Member States in the Region and for those who participated in the Pacific Malaria Drug Resistance Monitoring Network Meeting, held in Manila, Philippines from 16–17 June 2014.

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Keywords:

Drug resistance / Malaria - drug therapy / Drug monitoring / Antimalarials / Sentinel surveillance / Pacific Islands

ABBREVIATIONS

ACPR	Adequate Clinical and Parasitological Response
ACT	Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AL	Artemether-Lumefantrine
AMI	Australian Military Institute
AMO	Amodiaquine
API	Annual Parasite Incidence
APMEN	Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
CQ	Chloroquine
DHA	Dihydroartemisinin
DHP/DHA-PPQ	Dihydroartemisinin-Piperaquine
DOH	Department of Health
ECA	External Competency Assessment
ERAR	Emergency Response to Artemisinin Resistance
G6PD	Glucose-6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase
GFATM	The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
GMP	Global Malaria Programme
GPARC	Global Plan for Artemisinin-Resistance Containment
IRB	Institutional Review Board
K13	Kelch 13 mutation
MOH	Ministry of Health
MVP	Malaria and other vector borne and parasitic disease unit
NMCP	National Malaria Control Program
<i>Pf</i>	<i>Plasmodium falciparum</i>
<i>Pk</i>	<i>Plasmodium knowlesi</i>
<i>Pm</i>	<i>Plasmodium malariae</i>
<i>Pv</i>	<i>Plasmodium vivax</i>
PCR	polymerase chain reaction
PQ	Primaquine
QA	quality assurance
RBM	Roll Back Malaria
RDT	rapid diagnostic test
RITM	Research Institute for Tropical Medicine
SOP	standard operating procedure
SP	Sulfadoxine-Pyrimethamine
TEG	Technical Expert Group
TES	therapeutic efficacy studies
WEHI	Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research
WHO	World Health Organization

SUMMARY

The emergence and spread of malaria drug resistance is a major public health problem. The spread of artemisinin-resistant falciparum-malaria in the Greater Mekong Subregion is of particular concern, putting achievements to date at risk. Country efforts to track malaria drug resistance through implementation of high-quality therapeutic efficacy studies (TES) need to be supported and information shared in a timely manner across all malaria-endemic countries, to prevent the spread of drug resistance.

As part of this effort, WHO and Member States in 2011 established the Pacific Malaria Drug Resistance Monitoring Network. Operating in parallel to the Greater Mekong Subregion Network, the Pacific Network covers Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu in the Western Pacific Region and Indonesia and Timor-Leste in the South East Asia Region.

Now in its fourth year, the Pacific Network held its third meeting in Manila, Philippines, from 16 to 17 May 2014. The meeting was attended by country representatives from five of the seven member countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Two temporary advisers, two observers, and eight WHO Secretariat staff also attended.

The objectives of the meeting were: 1) to assess antimalarial drug efficacy data generated in countries and existing monitoring systems, the appropriateness of current national malaria treatment policies based on data presented, and to identify key issues and gaps; 2) to review and update country plans for antimalarial drug efficacy monitoring for the next two years; and 3) to discuss and further develop the Pacific Malaria Drug Resistance Monitoring Network plan of action, including partner cooperation, resource mobilization and linkages with other networks.

The meeting included country updates, technical presentations, and group and plenary discussions. The country representatives shared the status of malaria, treatment policy and latest TES results, highlighting the absence of resistance to artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACTs) in participating countries. They also reviewed their 2013–2014 malaria drug efficacy monitoring plans and identified accomplishments as well as gaps and operational issues and bottlenecks. These discussions subsequently informed the development of the new 2014–2015 country plans. Common challenges identified included difficulty reaching the minimum required sample size in view of the decline in malaria burden in many areas, problems identifying sentinel sites, lack of local institutions to conduct the TES, shortage of laboratory support for molecular analysis, and human resource issues. The importance of quality assurance for malaria microscopy was highlighted in therapeutic efficacy monitoring.

Country TES plans for 2014–2015 were developed in country groups. Planned activities include continuation of ongoing TES, ensuring the use of the updated TES template from WHO, setting-up or

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