

Summary report on the

Intercountry meeting of national malaria programme managers from countries of HANMAT and PIAM- Net

Muscat, Oman
22–24 September 2011



**World Health
Organization**

Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean

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1. Introduction

A subregional meeting of national malaria programme managers from countries of the Horn of Africa Network for Monitoring Antimalarial treatment (HANMAT) and the Pakistan–Islamic Republic of Iran–Afghanistan Malaria Network (PIAM-Net) was organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean in Muscat, Oman, from 22 to 24 September 2011. Representatives from HANMAT and PIAM-Net countries attended the meeting. Participants included malaria programme managers from Afghanistan, Djibouti, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. The meeting was also attended by staff from WHO headquarters and Regional Offices for Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit no. 3 in Cairo (NAMRU-3), Eastern Africa Roll Back Malaria Regional Network (EARN) and the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI)–University of Oxford–Wellcome Trust collaborative programme. This was the second joint meeting of the two networks, HANMAT and PIAM-Net, since their establishment in 2004 and 2008, respectively.

The HANMAT network was established in 2004 to facilitate exchange of information on drug resistance among countries in the Horn of Africa and Yemen. Saudi Arabia subsequently joined as a member during the 2008 meeting that was held in Sana'a, Yemen. The activities of the network have expanded to cover other relevant activities, including pharmco-vigilance and the use of serology techniques in malaria surveys. PIAM-Net, for Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, was established in 2008 during the WHO third cross-border meeting held in Shiraz, Islamic Republic of Iran. This network is important not only for *falciparum* malaria, but also for greater understanding of *vivax* malaria, the more prevalent species in the three countries.

In this meeting participants were updated on activities in the WHO African and Eastern Mediterranean regions, progress and challenges in 2011. A representative of EARN presented an overview of a decade of Roll Back Malaria partnership. There were important technical discussions on different aspects of diagnosis, treatment, the global plan for artemisinin resistance containment (GPARC), vaccines, vector control interventions, pesticide management, malaria control during emergency situations and measuring malaria risk in low transmission settings.

2. Conclusions

HANMAT and PIAM-Net countries discussed their current and planned activities for monitoring antimalarial drug resistance. They also discussed the threat of spreading insecticide resistance, importance of establishing a continuous monitoring system and sharing resistance information among countries. They agreed to include addressing insecticide resistance issue in the activities of the networks to ensure exchange of information and harmonization of strategies of insecticide resistance management.

The meeting discussed the challenges of limited access and poor quality of confirmatory facilities for malaria parasitological diagnosis and its key importance in countries. Countries of the networks discussed the recommendations adopted in the regional workshop on strengthening quality management systems for parasitological diagnosis of malaria, which was conducted just before the meeting, on 17–21 September 2011 in Muscat, with participation of national focal points for malaria parasitological diagnosis.

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