

15TH MEETING OF THE RAI REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE 12-13 MARCH 2020

DAY 2 - Review of RAI2E Implementation, 13 March 2020

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Summary of RSC Meeting decision points

- The RSC Eligibility Performance Assessment (EPA) and improvement plan were endorsed by the RSC.
- The choice of topics presented by the Independent Monitoring Panel (IMP) for their work in 2020 is appropriate. These will be further fine-tuned at the RSC Ex-Com meeting planned for June 2020.
- The RSC OR Subcommittee to quickly compose a recommendation to the RSC and the GF on whether the three OR projects that will not be finished by the end of 2020 should be continued.

NB: Prior to the 15th RSC Meeting background documents were made available to RSC Members. Therefore, these minutes do not further summarize presentations but only report on the active discussion that took place during the online meeting.

Meeting introduction

Prof Arjen Dondorp, RSC Chair

The RSC was convened online due to COVID19 ongoing crisis.

Meeting Objectives:

- Update on the GMS epidemiological situation
- UNOPS update on RAI2E grant implementation
- Countries progress update
- CSOs update
- IMP Presentation and plan of work for 2020
- Update on way forward regarding current OR projects

Meeting agenda is available in Annex I.

RSC Membership updates and COI declarations are available in Annex II.

Review and endorsement of the RSC Eligibility Performance Assessment (EPA and Performance Improvement Plan)

Severine Calza, RSC Executive Secretary

See presentation

The results of RSC self-assessment and draft PIP were presented for discussion/endorsement.

Decision Point:

- **The RSC Eligibility Performance Assessment (EPA) and improvement plan were endorsed by the RSC.**

Epidemiological updates

Dr Luciano Tuseo, WHO MME Coordinator

See presentation

An epidemiological update of malaria burden in the GMS was presented.

Discussion:

- The failure of DHA-Piperaquine, which was the first line drug until recently in Viet Nam, has shown the importance to have access to other first line treatment. With Pyramax registration in

Viet Nam the number of *P.f.* cases is expected to quickly decrease. Resistance monitoring in the adjacent provinces was reassured by NIMPE.

RAI Progress Update (UNOPS)

Dr Faisal Mansoor, Head of Programme

See presentation

The overall progress of the RAI2E grant were presented.

Discussion:

- Foci investigation in Cambodia has started in 2020. Its implementation is feasible and ongoing, and the data are being analysed.

Vietnam Presentation

See presentation

NMCP provided an update on the Country progress against the RAI2E objectives.

Discussion:

- Molecular surveillance of Piperaquine is not being conducted currently, but samples are being collected.
- 0.25 mg primaquine 14 days for *P.v.* treatment is currently deployed.

Cambodia Presentation

See presentation

NMCP provided an update on the Country progress against the RAI2E objectives.

Lao PDR Presentation

See presentation

NMCP provided an update on the Country progress against the RAI2E objectives.

Myanmar Presentation

See presentation

NMCP provided an update on the Country progress against the RAI2E objectives.

Discussion:

- The provision of malaria services in non-government control areas remains a challenge, also in high endemic areas such as Hpapun. In some areas a ‘malaria elimination taskforce’ has been established, in collaboration with SMRU and other partners, which are proving to be effective. These initiatives shall continue and be strengthened.

- Security remains a main challenge to provide malaria service in some non-government controlled areas, but through ICMVs and supply chain arrangements, provision of services is mostly in place.
- G6PD testing is being introduced for radical cure of *P.v.*

Thailand Presentation

See presentation

NMCP provided an update on the country progress against the RAI2E objectives.

Discussion:

- More details are needed on the coverage of Primaquine radical cure in the treatment of *P.v.* patients in Thailand. Access to care in the deep south remains a concern to be addressed.

CSOs National Components presentation

Mr Shree Acharya

See presentation

An update on the CSOs platform activities was provided.

Discussion:

- Reporting on the assessment of the CSOs Platform is expected by the end of May 2020.

IMP Presentation on planned activities for 2020

Dr Jim Tulloch, IMP Chair

See presentation

A summary of IMP activities so far was provided. A list of activities to be conducted in 2020 was proposed to the RSC for discussion.

Discussion and decision point:

- **The choice of topics presented for IMP work in 2020 is appropriate. These will be further fine-tuned at the RSC Ex-Com meeting planned for June 2020.**
- The IMP will likely recruit in-country consultants in the GMS Countries to continue their field work regardless of COVID related travel restrictions.
- With regards to IMP work on Operational Research, the OR Sub-Committee is expected to formulate guidance on IMP involvement.
- The IMP is requested to conduct an evaluation of the regional component.

Operational Research Update

See UNOPS summary document

UNOPS presented an estimation of the funding required to complete the research that won't be finished during RAI2E. Three projects have been identified: Burnet Institute, UCSF, MORU. If the RSC OR Subcommittee confirms the importance from a technical point of view of continuing the three studies, the Global Fund will be able to support the continuation of the studies.

Discussion and decision point:

- **The RSC OR Subcommittee to quickly propose recommendation to the RSC and the GF on whether the three OR projects that will not be finished by the end of 2020 should be continued.**
- The RAI RSC shall be able to quickly adapt their activities to any new evidence generated by OR. This would be particularly relevant in case chemoprevention for forest goers prove to be an effective intervention.

[AOB and next meeting](#)

Preliminary dates for meetings in 2020:

- The next RSC Ex-Com will take place on the 12th of June in Bangkok, pending on the evolving COVID-19 pandemic.
- The next RSC Meeting will take place on 10th – 11th of November in Hanoi.
- Update from APLMA: the malaria week is being re-scheduled for September/October 2020 in Hanoi or could be back to back with RSC meeting (to be discussed with the RCS Secretariat)

Annex I- Agenda

AGENDA DAY 2 – Review of RAI2E Implementation, 13 March 2020

Time Geneva	Time Phnom Penh	Item	Supporting documents
7.45-8.00	13.45-14.00	Access to online platform	
8.00-8.15	14.00-14.15	Introduction (<i>Prof. Arjen Dondorp, Chair</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of participants COI declarations 	Minutes of 14 th meeting
8.15-8.30	14.15-14.30	Review and endorsement of the RSC Eligibility Performance Assessment (EPA and Performance Improvement Plan) (<i>Severine Calza, RSC Executive Secretariat</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present results of RSC Self-assessment and draft PIP Decision Point: Approval of EPA and improvement plan	EPA and Performance Improvement Plan
8.30-8.40	14.30-14.40	Epidemiological updates, WHO MME (<i>Dr Luciano Tuseo</i>)	
8.40-09.00	14.40-15.00	RAI Progress Update (<i>UNOPS</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall progress and Regional Component (including OR) 	Quarterly issues paper PPT presentation
09.00-09.30	15.00-15.30	Vietnam Presentation (<i>NMCP 10', Discussion 15'</i>)	
09.30-10.00	15.30-16.00	Cambodia Presentation (<i>NMCP 10', Discussion 15'</i>)	
10.00-10.30	16.00-16.30	Lao PDR Presentation (<i>NMCP 10', Discussion 15'</i>)	
10.30-10.45	16.30-16.45	<i>Break</i>	
10.45-11.15	16.45-17.15	Myanmar Presentation (<i>NMCP 10', Discussion 15'</i>)	
11.15-11.45	17.15-17.45	Thailand Presentation (<i>NMCP 10', Discussion 15'</i>)	
11.45-12.15	17.45-18.15	CSOs National Components presentation (<i>CSOs 10', Discussion 15'</i>)	
12.15-12.45	18.15-18.45	IMP Presentation on planned activities for 2020 (<i>IMP</i>)	
12.45-13.00	18.45-19.00	Operational Research Update Decision Point: continuity of current projects	
13.00- 13.05	19.00- 19.05	AOB and next meeting	

Annex II- Attendance and COI

Attendance:

Quorum was met. 11 of 17 voting members connected.

Conflict of Interest declarations:

Mr Shree Acharya declared to work for ARC, a sub-recipient of the RAI2E grant, while also representing the CSOs at the RSC meeting. Prof. Arjen Dondorp declared that MORU and SMRU, organizations to which he is affiliated, are sub-recipients of the RAI2E grant.

List of Acronyms

ACTs

artemisinin-based combination therapy

ADB

Asian Development Bank

APLMA

Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance

ASEAN

Association of Southeast Asian Nations

ASMQ

Artesunate–mefloquine

API

Annual Parasitic Incidence

CCM

Country Coordination Mechanism

CSOs

Civil Society Organizations Civil Society Organizations

DHA-PPQ

Dihydroartemisinin/piperazine

DHIS

District Health Information System

G6PD

glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase

GF

Global Fund

GMS

Greater Mekon Subregion

ICMV

Integrated community malaria volunteer

iDES

Integrated Drug Efficacy Surveillance

IMP

Independent Monitoring Panel

IOM

International Organization for Migration

IPC

Institute Pasteur Cambodia

LLIN

Long-lasting insecticidal nets

MIS

Malaria Information System

MORU

Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research

Unit MoU

Memorandum of Understanding

NMCP

National Malaria Country Programme

P.f.

Plasmodium Falciparum

P.v.

Plasmodium Vivax

PPM

Public-Private Mix

PR

Principal recipient

RSC

Regional Steering Committee

SMRU

Shoklo Malaria Research Unit

SR

Sub Recipient

TES

Theurapeutic efficacy studies

UNOPS

United Nations Office for Project Services

VMW

Village Malaria Workers

WHO

World Health Organization