

PAN Africa, PAN Germany, PAN North America
in cooperation with ICIPE, KEMRI

Framework for strengthening Integrated Vector Management in malaria control programmes



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Protect humanity and the environment from pesticides. Promote alternatives.

About this document

This document presents a decision making framework to assist malaria control programme funders achieve a significant reduction in malaria morbidity and mortality through cost-effective, ecologically sound and sustainable Integrated Vector Management (IVM) interventions. Community- and ecosystem-based IVM provide effective vector control and minimize risks to human health and the environment. This framework aims to strengthen these aspects of IVM in malaria control programs. This 'holistic' IVM will reduce individual, community and environmental exposure to pesticide hazards and risks. It will support the Stockholm Convention goal to reduce reliance on, and ultimately eliminate use of, the persistent organic pollutant DDT.

The framework is a tool to assess whether new and on-going malaria project applications incorporate least toxic, effective and participatory disease control measures. It will assist donors to collaborate with malaria programme applicants or managers to incorporate robust pre-planning and planning phases that gather the information and collate the data essential for evidence-based control strategies. The framework can be used by officials who plan, design, fundraise for, implement or monitor a programme to combat malaria and other vector-borne diseases to assess whether they have adequately addressed key elements of IVM.

The framework focuses particularly on three key elements of a holistic IVM strategy:

- a) evidence-based decision making at community level by community members
 - b) social mobilization to support communities becoming primary stakeholders in IVM
 - c) use of non-chemical approaches to vector control within community-guided IVM
- These IVM strategies are additional to, and compatible with, the use of bed nets and medicinal therapies.

The framework presents questions that funders can request applicants to respond to. When successful applicants for malaria funding address the points covered in these questions, the initiatives will incorporate elements of holistic IVM. The framework provides indicators for malaria control programme officials to assess whether IVM is adopted in their projects and programmes.

This document is based on literature from disease control programme planning and incorporates lessons from on-the-ground activities that adopt sustainable IVM-based controls. It draws on WHO work and publications, in particular: the IVM handbook (WHO 2012a); Guidance on Policy-making for IVM (WHO 2012b) and Malaria Indicator Survey (WHO 2012c). It took inspiration from the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) implementation of IVM strategies that target malaria in Africa (ICIPE 2012). And it draws on effective experiences in Mexico, Kenya, Ethiopia and Senegal (PAN Germany 2010, ICIPE 2012, PAN Africa & PAN Germany 2013). Many excellent technical IVM manuals and guides are available and key references are listed in Annex 3.

This is a living document developed with experts of diverse experience and backgrounds. Feedback from those involved in financing or implementing malaria programmes will inform a next version. We invite all readers to give feedback.

The human elements of IVM are often overlooked. People living in high-risk malaria areas must understand the basic causes of this and other vector-borne diseases and how to protect themselves against locally-prevailing vectors. Sadly this is rarely the case. A holistic IVM programme will ensure local communities have the knowledge and support to establish and manage prevention activities. Their involvement is a key to truly effective implementation. This aspect is stressed in the WHO key elements of IVM strategies listed in Table 1.

An evaluation of IVM projects in Kenya and Ethiopia found that these have been: “highly effective in reducing the threat of malaria by reducing mosquito densities using eco-friendly means ... The projects have had high value for money and are highly scalable and sustainable” (ICIPE 2012). A review of 40 studies that emphasised environmental management interventions concluded these are “highly effective in reducing morbidity and mortality” (Keiser et al. 2005).

A global concern with the current approaches to malaria reduction is the problem of resistance to the pesticides used against mosquitoes (and their larvae) in IRS and in situ and the resistance of the parasite to ACTs (see Box 2). Pesticide use is problematic too because of risks to health and the environment from poor chemicals management. When used, it should be guaranteed that pesticide handling is in accordance with WHO standards.

Box 2 Resistance

Resistance to insecticides is an increasing problem in vector control because of the reliance on chemical control and expanding operations, particularly for malaria and dengue control. Furthermore, the chemical insecticides used can have adverse effects on health and the environment. (WHO 2012b)

... the threat of insecticide resistance appears to be growing rapidly. Currently, we are highly dependent on the pyrethroids, as they are the only class of insecticides used on insecticide-treated mosquito nets. Resistance to pyrethroids has now been identified in a wide variety of settings, many of those in the most highly malaria-endemic countries in Africa.” (WHO 2011)



Road construction is not just good for economic development but is also a tactic against malaria – as it reduces puddles and pooled water as potential mosquito breeding sites on uneven dirt tracks and unpaved roads.

Step 1

Pre-planning an IVM Programme

Currently, few malaria reduction projects or programmes incorporate holistic IVM. Donors can play a vital role in guiding ecosystem-based, community-driven strategies, based on:

- A ► evidence-based decision making at community level by community members
- B ► social mobilization to support communities becoming primary stakeholders in IVM
- C ► increased use of non-chemical approaches within a community-guided IVM

The first step in an IVM programme is pre-planning to gather information and data for an evidence-based strategy that is appropriate for the local communities, ecology, disease profile and infrastructure (often termed a situational analysis). Applicants should demonstrate they have gathered this information and considered how to incorporate it in an IVM strategy.

As an IVM approach will not be familiar to all projects and programmes, donors may consider separately funding this pre-planning step. Donors may consider this step onerous; but when pesticides are part of a malaria control programme, donor face obligations to ensure applicants can guarantee that: sound pesticide management and procurement practices operate; pesticide handling meets WHO standards; communities will not be adversely affected by spray regimes or LLITNs; the project is sustainable over time; and resistance assessment and monitoring strategies are clearly in place.



Water is an essential basis of life – for humans and the environment, as well as vectors transmitting diseases such as malaria. Local communities, including farmers, need information on managing water resources to prevent mosquito breeding sites.

Framework 1

Questions for situational analysis

	Question	Indicator
1.	Is a Malaria Indicator Survey (MIS) available for the project country?	MIS title and year of publication mentioned if available.
2	Describe the local determinants of the disease by providing the following data:	Note that a National MIS might provide information to answer the following questions.
2.1	Epidemiological data	
2.1.1	What are the malaria prevalence and incidence rates in the project area?	Data present and source of data identified.
2.1.2	What are the number / kind of repeated episodes of malaria per household?	Data present and source of data identified if this is available from a separate project. Efforts should be made to have this as part of the project baseline data.
2.1.3	What are the number / kind of repeated episodes per person?	Data present and source of data identified if this is available from a separate project. Efforts should be made to have this as part of the project baseline data.
2.1.4	What are the entomological human biting rates / inoculation rates?	To be seen as supplementary information. If this could be made available it could indicate important evidence.
2.1.5	What is the status of other vector-borne diseases prevalent in the project area that will be reduced by project interventions along with malaria (e.g. Japanese encephalitis, leishmaniasis, dengue, lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis or chagas disease)? Which proactive efforts will be made for optimal planning to maximize impact on malaria and other prevalent vector borne diseases?	Other vector borne illnesses identified and disease statistics over time obtained for those that can be tackled using malaria control strategies. Proactive efforts described.
2.1.6	What is the disease stratification? Does the country have up to date information on different malaria levels in different areas – high, moderate, low or none?	Maps present and source of data identified.
2.2	Vector related data	
2.2.1	What are the main vectors in the project area? Which Plasmodium species are prevalent? What is the status of insecticide resistance in vectors? What is the status of drug resistance in parasites?	Data present and source of data identified.
2.2.1.1	What is the seasonality of their occurrence? What are the local densities and fluctuations of the vectors? Are dry season refuge areas known?	Data gathered from interviews with community and local malaria control officials.
2.2.1.2	Is their biting and resting occurring mainly indoors or outdoors; or is this unknown? Does biting occur (partly) in the early evening before people sleep or exclusively at night; or is this unknown?	This information is often not available. Possibly local malaria control officials can provide data on these questions.
2.2.2	Are the results of recent insecticide susceptibility tests (WHO bioassay) available, and if so, do they indicate reduced susceptibility to pyrethroids and/or other insecticide classes?	Data present and source of data identified

Step 2 Planning vector management projects

The emphasis of the applicant should be on considering and integrating environmental, mechanical and biological vector control methods into their project or programme. Planning will assist country strategies to reduce reliance on DDT.

Annex 1 lists the range of interventions available. It shows options for integrating methods into malaria programmes and projects and it supports planning of community-driven vector management.

IVM which stresses localized solutions and evidence-based decision-making is one of the most promising vector management approaches. The concept stresses local environmental management, personal control measures, biological controls and community empowerment. Social and behavioural factors play a key role in determining how people respond to the malaria threat. Policy makers and those developing malaria projects must pay attention to these behavioural factors in deciding among different malaria control strategies.

Projects and programmes should consider: epidemiological and entomological factors; resources for the programme (delivery systems); community engagement and adherence; sociological and demographic factors; and an assessment of other factors that may negatively affect an IVM programme. Donors can help projects and programmes become more robust in selecting the right vector control interventions and strategies for community empowerment into holistic IVM. They may consider providing seed funding to enable applicants to collect essential planning information and control options.

The choosing of an appropriate vector control option should assess feasibility and success. A critical tool for IVM is Larval Source Management (LSM) which will reduce risks and maintain and/or increase success. Four main categories of vector control methods can be effective (see Box 3) – environmental, mechanical, biological and chemical. The operational manual “Larval Source Management: a supplementary measure for malaria vector control”^(WHO 2013) provides guidance on LSM.

Box 3 Larval Source Management (LSM)

LSM is the management of aquatic habitats (water bodies) that are potential larval habitats for mosquitoes in order to prevent the completion of immature development.

There are four types of LSM:

1. Habitat modification: a permanent alteration to the environment e.g. land reclamation
2. Habitat manipulation: a recurrent activity e.g. flushing of streams
3. Larviciding: the regular application of biological or “chemical insecticides” to water bodies
4. Biological control: the introduction of natural enemies into water bodies

Source: Fillinger and Lindsay (2011)



Access to information and good knowledge about malaria and other vector born diseases are crucial as part of a holistic multisector, multistakeholder and ecosystem-based, community-driven integrated vector management approach. This can help people to contribute to the reduction of malaria and the elimination of DDT.

Pesticide Action Network (PAN)

is an international network of over 600 NGOs in over 90 countries. PAN aims to reduce exposure of the most vulnerable communities around the world to highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs), while advancing effective and least toxic alternatives. Some HHPs are commonly used in malaria control activities.

ICIPE

is an international scientific research institute headquartered in Kenya. Objectives are to help ensure food security and better health for humankind and its livestock; to protect the environment; and to conserve and make better use of natural resources. ICIPE's mission is to help alleviate poverty, ensure food security and improve the overall health status of peoples of the tropics by developing and extending management tools and strategies for harmful and useful arthropods, while preserving the natural resource base through research and capacity building.

KEMRI

is a state corporation and the national body responsible for carrying out health research in Kenya. In its commitment to meeting the health challenges KEMRI has consolidated its research activities into six main research programmes: 1. biotechnology, 2. traditional medicine and drug development, 3. infectious and parasitic diseases, 4. Public health and health systems, non-communicable diseases, 6. Sexual, reproductive and child health.

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