

**5th SEA Regional Coordination
Mechanism Forum (SRCMF) Virtual
Meeting Report**

28th December 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	2
2. INAUGURAL SESSION.....	3
3. BUSINESS SESSION.....	9
3.1 Appointment of office bearers- chair, co-chair and rapporteur.....	9
3.2 Adoption of Agenda.....	9
3.3 Approval and Adoption of the 4th SRCMF Report.....	9
3.4. Submission of annual report	
3.4.1 Follow-up of the Recommendations of 4th SRCMF Meeting.....	9
3.4.2. Progress of the RBM/UNOPS Project implementation.....	12
3.4.3 Administrative and Financial Report.....	13
3.4.4 RBM/UNOPS Project and 2nd and 3rd Year Funding plan.....	14
3.4.5 Report on Project Proposals development	
○ SAARC Development Fund (SDF).....	15
○ Tuberculosis.....	16
3.4.6 Report on meetings	
○ Malaria Technical Working Group (MTWG) Meeting update.....	17
○ Baseline survey on impact of Covid-19 pandemic on malaria elimination programmes and Strategy development.....	20
3.4.7 Logo for SRCMF.....	21
3.4.8 Website.....	21
3.5 Presentation on 2022 work plan.....	22
3.6 Resource Mobilization Committee Chair Nomination.....	23
4. CLOSING SESSION.....	23
Annexures	
Annexure1: Agenda.....	25
Annexure2: List of participants.....	27

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The South East Asia Regional Coordination Mechanism Forum (SRCMF) had organized its 5th Virtual Meeting on 28 December 2021.

It was chaired by Dasho Kunzang Wangdi, Global Fund (GF) Board Member from SEA GF Constituency and was participated by SRMCF Members and Alternate Members from 7 out of 11 Member States from SEA region representing country CCMs, experts in the Malaria and Health System and partner organizations including RBM Partnership, APLMA/APMEN, RTI. The meeting was organized with the objective to appraise the members on the follow-up of the recommendations of the 4th SRCMF meeting, to update on the implementation progress of ongoing RBM/UNOPS Grant No. CFP-UNOPS-RBM-2021-02, 2nd and 3rd year funding, brief on the outcome of the first Malaria Technical Working Group (MTWG) meeting, ongoing baseline survey on impact of Covid-19 pandemic on malaria elimination programmes and SRCFM Strategy development.

The meeting also apprised the members on financial, Human Resources and administrative progress till date, progress on the development of 4 countries (India, Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh) project proposals for SAARC Development Fund (SDF), Matching Grant for accelerating National Malaria Elimination Programmes in Cross-border areas in SEA Region and work initiated for Strengthening Cross-border Coordination to Accelerate Tuberculosis Elimination in Priority Countries in South-East Asia. It was also to brief and seek approval on the SRCMF proposed work plan for 2022, SRCMF Website and logo and Nomination of Resource Mobilisation Committee Chair.

The participants from Member Countries and Partner Organizations appreciated SRCMF for organizing the meeting and commended the progress made in respect of Cross border collaboration between the countries. The meeting gave certain directives and recommendations for the secretariat to follow up and report in the next SRCMF meeting. The meeting profusely thanked Dr Melanie Renshaw, RBM Partnership to end Malaria, and UNOPS for their continued support to SRCFM. The meeting reiterated SRCMF priority on Cross border collaboration implemented through the national programs and in line with WHO Guidelines.

The meeting adopted summary report by the rapporteur. The meeting ended with closing remarks from the Chairperson.

2. INAUGURAL SESSION

The 5th SRCMF SEA Regional Coordination Mechanism Forum (SRCMF) Virtual Meeting started with inaugural session commencing with welcome address by Dr Jigmi Singay, Executive secretary Cum Coordinator SRCMF at 10:00AM on 28 December 2021. He welcomed Dasho Kunzang Wangdi, Global Fund Board Member, Dr Shobini Rajan, Alternate Board Member, CCM India and Ms Suneeta Chhetri, GF SEA Constituency Communication Focal Point (CFP), Resources persons, South-East Asia Coordinating Mechanism forum (SRCMF) Members and Alternate Board Members, CCM Coordinators, partners, donors, Dr S.D. Gupta Trustee Secretary of IIHMR University Jaipur, and Dr. Sutapa B. Neogi Director -IIHMR, Delhi. He thanked Dasho Kunzang Wangdi, for accepting to deliver key note address in the meeting. He welcomed all distinguished and eminent speakers and expressed deep appreciation to everyone for attending 5th SRCMF meeting and gracing this inaugural session in spite of their busy schedule. He once again offered season's greetings to all the speakers, and all the participants of the SRCMF meeting.

- **Dr Filipe Da Costa**, Former Global Fund Board Member, on his inaugural remarks, highlighted that no country can achieve and sustain Malaria, HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis elimination in isolation. This would require collaboration between member states, CCMs and Programme managers to facilitate three disease elimination initiatives in Cross-border areas. He supported the SRCMF as a coordinating body in the region to address cross-border issues for 3 disease elimination. He appreciated SRCMF's continued work despite COVID-19 challenges. He thanked SRCMF for bringing everyone together for this meeting to develop a better understanding of the issues and challenges involved in achieving common goal of disease elimination. He wished the meeting all the success in its deliberations.
- **Dr. Melanie Renshaw**, Country and Regional Support Partnership Committee (CRSPC), and Chief Technical Advisor, RBM Partnership to End Malaria, congratulated SRCMF Secretariat for the impressive achievement in a relatively short period and for its high-level engagement, ownership by member countries and partners. It was heartening to see how SRCMF has gone from strength to strength and in spite of the covid-19 pandemic has achieved success in collaboration and coordination efforts in malaria elimination in cross-

border context and she looked forward to continued development of SRCMF in effectively contributing to the Malaria elimination goals.

- **Dr. Rajiv Tandon**, Director-Health, RTI International India shared the overview of RTI work in Malaria and Neglected Tropical diseases. He shared that RTI works to scale up the fight against malaria by strengthening approaches to prevention, patient case management, vector control and surveillance, as well as building sustainable implementation platforms for country-led programs. It partners with national malaria programs to develop technical and operational approaches that build on existing structures, integrating program implementation and capacity building based on global and national best practices, policies and strategies. Also, RTI innovates by using mobile-based technologies for more efficient operations, enhancing disease surveillance and improving budgeting for programs to implement more targeted and prioritized intervention packages, and increasing community-level engagement for increased access and adoption of interventions as well as long-term programmatic ownership and sustainability. He added that RTI's HSS work in India is intertwined with Malaria, RMNCH+A, NCDs, NTDs, Infectious diseases, and WASH through Technical assistance, capacity building, community engagement, liaising with the government liaising and policy advocacy. He informed participants on Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, Learning and Adapting (MERLA) based approach of RTI facilitated continuous learning and adaptation for improving program effectiveness and decision making. He informed participants on RTI developing partnerships with APLMA /APMEN, NVBDCP, Ministry of Health & Family welfare of Govt of India, ICMR, NIMR/NIRTH/VCRC, DNDi India Health Fund (Tata Trusts/BMGF) and Malaria No More, WHO-SEARO on various aspects of Malaria elimination. He congratulated SRCMF for its continued work on Cross-border malaria elimination in spite of COVID-19 pandemic and expressed commitments to partner with SRCMF.
- **Dr Harsh Rajvanshi**, Associate Director, Country Programs, APLMA applauded SRCMF for the successful first Malaria Technical Working Group (MTWG) Meeting in Dec 2021. He also informed that the Royal Government of Bhutan, APLMA/APMEN in partnership GFATM & RBM partnership hosted a high level Dialogue focused on 'Regional collaboration for malaria elimination & Health Security', opened by Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bhutan Dr Lotay Tshering and participated by Minister for Health Bhutan

Dasho Dechen Wangmo, Minister of Health and Medical Services, Solomon Islands Mr Culwick Togamana, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Australia Senator the Hon Marise Payne, representatives from National Malaria Programs, WHO, GFATM, RBM Partnership, Indo Pacific Centre for Health Security, international and Regional health organisations including SRCMF, donors agencies and civil society organisations. SRCMF Executive Secretary Moderated Session on Cross border collaboration for malaria elimination with panellist from India, Bhutan, Indonesia and Timor-Leste.

The high-level meeting, recalled 2030 elimination goal committed by 18 Asia Pacific Heads of States at the 9th East Asia Summit, and emphasized the urgency to step up the fight against malaria.

The meeting urged countries to:

- a) Adopt a whole of government approach by establishing/re-invigorating inter-ministerial Task Forces to address cross-sectoral challenges in malaria elimination
- b) Develop joint-cross-border elimination plans to ensure effective implementation of harmonised activities at ground level
- c) Ensure sustained domestic funding for malaria service delivery and establish synergy with broader health systems funding to create programmatic efficiency.

He also informed that APMEN/APLMA in close coordination with Govt of India is committed to host senior officials meeting in 2022 with SRCMF. He assured APLMA /APMEN full support and commitment to SRCMF

- **Prof. Dr. Mohammad Abul Faiz**, Former Global Fund Board Member addressed the inaugural session by highlighting the importance of Cross border collaboration in achieving the regional goal of malaria elimination by 2030. He added that it is heartening to see that in spite of threat of covid-19 pandemic countries are committed to elimination of malaria. He further added that Malaria in border areas in many countries poses a number of challenges due to enormous variation and complexity of epidemiology. He underlined those areas with high endemicity have a high potential to spread infection across international borders. Number of high-level agreements including high-level commitments have already been made by the Ministers of Health of the Region, notably in the 2017 Ministerial Declaration on Accelerating and Sustaining Malaria Elimination in South-East Asia as well as the Regional Action Plan 2017-2030 Towards Malaria-Free

South-East Asia Region in November 2017. The Ministerial Declaration includes a provision for universal access to quality-assured prompt malaria diagnosis and treatment as well as effective prevention in border areas and effective cross-border collaboration and complementary responses.

He highlighted that Malaria elimination cannot be achieved and sustained in isolation by any country, all countries have to work together to achieve 2030 goals. He also expressed, that although slow progress is being made, we have long way to go in which SRCMF has an important role to play. He highlighted that Bangladesh has strategic plan for phased elimination of malaria and has completed situational analysis of malaria in bordering districts through both quantitative and qualitative studies in 2021 with support of WHO. He further underlined that WHO and SRCMF have an important role in providing support for information exchange mechanism at local level between bordering districts. He concluded by pointing out the potential threat of Artemisinin resistant malaria from bordering countries and need to build capacity for continuous monitoring to ensure early detection of and response to drug resistance.

- **Dasho Kunzang Wangdi**, Global Fund Board Member started his key note address by thanking the SEA GF Board Members and Alternate Members who were instrumental in the conceiving and establishing SRCMF. He then welcomed all the participants to the 5th SRCMF meeting. He added that despite the pandemic, the SEA constituency leadership had been busy working on among other duties and the issues related to effectively managing the C19RM (the COVID-19 Response Mechanism supports countries to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on programs to fight HIV, TB and malaria, and initiates urgent improvements in health and community systems) and including approval of the Global Fund's 2023-2028 Strategy: Fighting Pandemics and Building a Healthier and More Equitable World. The Strategy sets to accelerate impact towards the 2030 horizon and contribute to a world free of the AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as set out in Sustainable Development Goal 3. It includes fighting pandemics while the primary goal being to end AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. It further reiterated that it will respond to the dramatic changes in the global health by introducing an evolving objective on pandemic preparedness and response (PPR). He also informed that the new Strategy puts people and communities at the centre of all our work. These can be achieved with partners in

coordination and oversight, especially at the country and community level. He further highlighted that “The success of the Global Fund model is based on the principles of country ownership and partnership. He therefore, urged the partners who have resources at the country and community level, to support SEA countries, with the Geneva level spirit of understanding and commitment. He apprised the participants on event on 9th of December 2021 co-hosted by the SEA Constituency with the Global Fund Advocates Network Asia-Pacific (GFAN AP), in preparation for the Global Fund’s Seventh Replenishment Conference, which will be hosted by the US Government, in the second half of 2022.

During this regional event, the SEA Constituency informed of support required in fund raising from the private and corporate sectors. The SEA Countries were reminded of the need to step-up efforts in undertaking initiatives to eliminate the disease burden as required by SDS Goals (SDG) 3. He also pointed out that the member countries in the Region through Bilateral and Regional meetings are trying to harmonize their efforts towards acceleration of Cross-border Malaria elimination and, at the same time addressing the sustainability issues and for prevention of reintroduction.

He applauded the efforts of the two SEA Member countries, namely, Maldives (2015) and Sri Lanka (2016) who had already eliminated malaria. Also pointed out that Bhutan and Timor-Leste who were on the verge of meeting the target, had to change the target of elimination, because of indigenous cases detected in Cross-border areas. Thus, both the countries are re-setting their new dates.

He congratulated SRCMF for being able to participate, as a partner, in this High-Level Dialogue. He hoped that SRCMF in partnership with APLMA/APMEN will be in better position to address the cross-border issues of the SEA Region meaningfully in order that we “Leave no one behind”.

He further added that the SRCMF is an organisation given birth by the GF SEA Constituency. Its main mandate is the Coordination among countries in the region for the elimination of three GF diseases: Malaria, TB and HIV/AIDS. It is expected to help ensure

Cross-border area issues, not becoming hindrance for disease elimination of any member country. He expressed optimism that SRCMF will be able to play a more dynamic role under the leadership of India and Indonesia, as they will soon assume leadership of the SEA Region, in making SEA free of three diseases and with capacity to tackle any pandemics being built

He emphasized that representative of SEA Governments support SRCMF, as is instituted unanimously to pursue our collective interests.

He also called on to the Global Fund to support cross-border issues of the SEA region, not effectively covered by so far. He specially thanked all partners but in particular the RBM/UNOPS for supporting the SRCMF and looked forward to the continued support.

On behalf of SEA GF Constituency, he expressed special gratitude to Dr. S.D. Gupta, and Indian Institute of Health Management Research University, Jaipur for hosting the SRCMF Secretariat in International Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR), New Delhi Without such a critical help the SRCMF would not have made it where it is today.

He informed the participants that the SEA Constituency Leadership is currently in the process of conducting the election of the new GF Board Member from India and ABM from Indonesia and the nomination of candidates for the positions of Chairs, Vice Chairs and Members of the three GF committees AFC, EGC and Strategic Committee, and trusted the SEA Constituencies will nominate committed candidates. He ended his keynote address again welcoming all and wishing a fruitful meeting.

The inaugural session ended with vote of thanks by SRCMF Program Officer, Ms Natasha Dawa

3. BUSINESS SESSION

The business session commenced with the appointment of Chair, Co-Chair and Rapporteur for the session.

3.1 Appointment of Office Bearers- Chair, Co-Chair and Rapporteur

The Business Session nominated Dasho Kunzang Wangdi, Board Member of the Global Fund from the SEA GF Constituency as the Chairperson, Dr. Lakshmi Somatunga Member SRCMF from Sri Lanka as the Co-Chair and Prof. Dr. Prakash Ghimire from Nepal as the Rapporteur for the 5th SRCMF Meeting.

3.2 Adoption of Agenda

The Chairperson of the meeting thanked the participants for electing him as the Chair and invited comments on the draft agenda. As the agenda was agreed by all and in absence of any comment, he requested the meeting for adoption of the draft agenda. The provisional agenda was adopted.

3.3 Approval and Adoption of the 4th SRCMF Report

The Executive Secretary presented the draft of 4th SRCMF Report for consideration of the Meeting. Chair invited comments on the 4th SRCMF Report. In absence of any comment, as the report was reviewed by members on circulation online, Chair requested the meeting for approval of 4th SRCMF Report as the final 4th SRCMF Report.

3.4 Submission of Annual Report

3.4.1 Follow up of the Recommendations of 4th SRCMF Meeting

The Session on follow-up of the Recommendations of 4th SRCMF Meeting was presented by Executive Secretary highlighting the following points:

- 1) Policy paper on Cross-Border Malaria Elimination drafted by Dr J P Narain, Advisor/Resource Person of SRCMF, was circulated amongst the Participants of the 4th SRCMF Meeting and Comments received were incorporated and recirculated. And the 2-pager document was finalized incorporating requested edits.
- 2) Discussion with concerned member countries, partners and GF Portfolio Managers have been initiated for preparation of Regional Global Fund proposal on cross border malaria elimination funding in the forthcoming round.
- 3) Strategy for strengthening the Cross-border coordination in the SEA Region to accelerate malaria elimination have been developed following desk review-based situation analysis of National Strategic Plans (NSPs) of the Member States, and other relevant documents

of the respective Member Countries. Further, these data will be supplemented & completed by ongoing baseline surveys

- 4) Bhutan has already mapped the health facilities in the districts along Indo-Bhutan international border, Risk mapping of border malaria will be completed in Q1 of calendar year 2022, Further data for Cross-border collaboration toward malaria elimination will be supplemented & completed by ongoing baseline surveys.
- 5) Discussions on mapping partner landscape with member countries and partners initiated for harmonizing efforts, minimizing duplication, ensuring efficient and effective resource utilization
- 6) Advocacy with high-level government officials, policy makers on malaria elimination has been initiated:
 - a) briefing meeting with MoHFW Govt. of India with Ministry & Dept on acceleration of Malaria elimination at Cross border areas /districts held on 1 Nov 2021
 - b) Planning meetings with Parliament Secretariat in India, held on 23 Dec 2021; and
 - c) High-level advocacy meeting in Bangladesh is planned for 29 Dec 2021
- 7) Played key role in partner advocacy, mobilization of resources and coordination with the WHO, APLMA-APMEN, and relevant other organizations:
 - a) One on one meetings ongoing with WHO, APLMA/APMEN, RBM, CDC, SDF, Rotary International/Foundation & BMGF for malaria elimination in Cross-border areas
 - b) SRCMF was one of the 3 key partner along with WHO & RBM in 2021 Asia Pacific Leaders Dialogue for Malaria Elimination co-hosted by APLMA/APMEN, in partnership with Ministry of Health, Royal Government of Bhutan, held on 13th December 2021. Executive Secretary cum Coordinator of SRCMF moderated the Session on Cross border collaboration for malaria elimination with the panellists from India, Bhutan, Indonesia and Timor-Leste.
- 8) Framework for monitoring and evaluation of malaria elimination efforts in Cross-border areas under discussion with partners and will be finalised during the partner Coordination meeting.
- 9) Malaria elimination information sharing mechanism & technology for site appropriate interventions at the local level, are under discussion in the ongoing bilateral meetings.
- 10) Two consultants have already initiated the work to coordinate development of:

- a) Regional/multi-country proposals for TB, HIV and health systems strengthening in the cross-border areas;
 - b) Resource mobilisation committee has already been activated and committee starts working from Q1 calendar year 2022
- 11) Discussion ongoing in the bilateral meeting to designate focal points at national, state and district levels for joint planning and actions on the cross-border program activities; and
- 12) In some of the countries Malaria Elimination activities are already under regular Govt. budget, advocacy for adequate allocation to sustain the program is also given top priority. For these countries external resources will be only complementing the Govt. investment and will be phased in and out before the project ends

Recommendations:

The Meeting made the following recommendations:

1. Besides Board Member and Alternate Board Member, SEA Constituency Representatives in various committees of the GF to be invited to the SRCMF meetings, for the updates and their participation and inputs for the project proposals development and advocacy through their respective committees to the board to facilitate project proposal facilitation.
2. SRCMF to ensure the technical aspects of the activities in the Cross-border coordination for disease elimination work are in line with the WHO technical guidelines and recommendations.
3. Findings from situation analysis needs to be discussed in the MTWG for validity and appropriateness for the accelerations for eliminations and sustainability of the programs.
4. Countries need to promote continuous communication between district on both side of the international border for joint – planning, collaboration and information sharing.
5. SRCMF to ensure consistency of the technical content of the information sharing at the local and districts level besides the national programs, are in agreement with WHO and other technical partners.
6. Countries to consider building the capacity for early detection/identification of Artemisinin resistant malaria across the border, continuous monitoring to share treatment policies including response to/containment of the drug resistance.

7. Key and vulnerable Populations along the border areas like mobile & migrant populations should be discussed and deliberated in bilateral meetings involving the specialised agencies like IOM and others to ensure no one is left behind for the services.
8. IEC Materials developed by SRCMF for health education, communication and advocacy are technically appropriate and consistent in the Cross-border areas for all three-disease elimination.
9. SRCMF should focus more for implementation of meetings, training and capacity building at the local level including facility development in coordination with the local government and national programs and the partners/donors.
10. In line with the 4th SRCMF Recommendation no. 13 domestic resource mobilisation to be further intensified for sustaining the malaria and other elimination programs; and
11. The meeting acknowledged and appreciated the implementation of the recommendation of the of 4th SRCMF meeting and directed SRCMF to continuously follow-up on those recommendations which needs continuous implementation and follow-up through continuous monitoring.

3.4.2 Progress of the RBM/UNOPS Project implementation

The progress on RBM/UNOPS Project grant- CFP-UNOPS-RBM-2021-2022. implementation was presented by Executive Secretary of the SRCMF Secretariat with following highlights:

1. Grant No. CFP-UNOPS-RBM-2021-02 support agreement signed on 2nd July 2021 for project Period of 1 Year (5th July 2021- 30th June 2022)
2. The total approved budget is USD 299,987
3. Fund release:
 - 1st Tranche- USD 120,000 on 11th August 2021
 - 2nd Tranche- USD 120,000 on 9th December 2021
4. Due to Covid-19 pandemic travel restrictions and late release of funds two Project Activities are accelerated and carried over from Q1 to Q2, and three activities were brought forward to Q2 from Q3 & Q4
5. Most of the activities, at least 90% or more, will be finished in Q3 so that the SRCMF can engage in the new call for RBM /UNOPS 2nd and 3rd year combined grant proposal by Q4.
6. Revised Q2 activities implementation Status:

- Out of total 13 activities for implementation 1 could not be implemented because of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions on travel, 10 were completed and 2 are ongoing

7. Quarter 2 Milestone narrative and financial report will be submitted to donor on 31 December 2021

Chair congratulated SRCMF for accomplishing most of the planned work.

3.4.3 Administrative and Financial Report

The administrative and financial report was presented by finance officer, Mr Anil Chitkara, SRCMF Secretariat highlighting the following points:

1. Financial Management Software is used for financial transactions and is computerized.
2. SRCMF financial transactions including audit, tax matters, donors reporting, IT returns, etc are verified by professional CA, well versed with GOI policy and financial rules & regulations.
3. Qtr. 2 Financial reports will be submitted by 31 December 2021 in line with RBM/UNOPS agreement.
4. Total Budget approved for July 2021 to June 2022 is USD 299,987.
5. Implementation status of Q1 and Q2:
 - Implementation of Qtr.1 was 60.06% against budget of USD 88,629.
 - Implementation of Qtr.2 is 73% against budget of USD 123,318.
6. Mr Anil Chitkara, Admin & Finance Officer joined in October 2021
7. Full time strength of SRCMF is five - including, Executive Secretary cum Coordinator, Malaria Programme Officer, Admin & Finance Officer, IT Technologist and Office Assistant
 8. Plan to recruit
 - one TB Programme Officer
 - one Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) professional.
 - coordinators in 2022 at the National, State, District / Local levels in line with 4th SRCMF recommendations.
9. Daily working hours of SRCMF Secretariat 9 am to 5 pm
10. SRCMF Holiday List for 2022 is put up for approval; and

11. SRCMF Planned to pay staff at professional scale however due to unavailability of adequate funds all staff are currently paid at NPO rate.

Chair advised SRCMF to follow the SRCMF standard operating procedures before taking any decisions and giving finance and administrative approvals.

In absence of any comments Chair Approved the holiday list of the SRCMF

3.4.4 RBM/UNOPS Project 2nd and 3rd Year Funding Plan

Dr. Melanie Renshaw Co-Chair, Country and Regional Support Partnership Committee (CRSPC), and Chief Technical Advisor, RBM Partnership to End Malaria highlighted the following points:

1. SRCMF project implementation is progressing well, in spite of the restrictions due to COVID-19 pandemic
2. Though there was delay in signing of Project agreement but as soon as it was signed, SRCMF hit the ground running and achieved high rate of implementation
3. Activities which could not be implemented were mostly due to covid-19 pandemic travel restrictions.
4. RBM/UNOPS applauded SRCMF for high quality financial and technical reporting and high rate of the implementation; and
5. Considering the capacity of SRCMF and quality of implementation discussion is ongoing for approval for 2nd and 3rd year funding together (600,000 USD) which will run through 2023.

Chair thanked Dr Melanie Renshaw for her continuous support to SRCMF, without which it would have been impossible to continue. Executive Secretary cum Coordinator SRCMF Secretariat also thanked RBM for regular guidance and assistance through monthly check in calls, which facilitated timely implementation. He further thanked Dr Melanie Renshaw for playing crucial role in not only mobilisation and securing first year funds but also now facilitating funds for remaining two years in one release.

3.4.5 Report on Project Proposals development

- **SAARC Development Fund (SDF)**

The session on SAARC Development Fund (SDF) was, presented by Mr Dorji Wangdi, Consultant, highlighting the following points:

1. To fulfil Eligibility Criteria for funding under SDF, Social Window Grant project:
 - The proposal should demonstrate how it will fulfil the objectives of the SAARC Charter to promote health and responds to urgent issues reducing social and institutional vulnerability of poor, women, children amongst others, enhancing regional collaboration focussing on cross-border collaboration project and most importantly promote and improve welfare and quality of life of people of south Asia
 - The proposal should involve at least three or more than three SAARC Member States with commitment to co-fund on 50:50 co-funding modality.
 - a. SRCMF already represents 6 of the 8 member states of the SAARC. This project covers 4 countries of SAARC member states.
 - Fall under one of the thematic areas of social window,
 - a. This project particularly falls under health thematic besides poverty elevation and support to vulnerable and disadvantaged segment of the society
 - Project meets all key criteria for SDF funding,
 - Consultant pointed out that when proposal is advocated and put through by Board member of SDF from the respective member states, proposals are given serious consideration and supports.
2. Draft 4 countries project proposals, with SRCMF as a coordinating mechanism for cross-border initiatives India, Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh for SAARC Development Fund (SDF) Matching Grant for accelerating National Malaria Elimination Programmes in Cross-border areas in SEA Region is under final stage of development and is being peer reviewed by Resource persons Dr Dipanjan Sujit Roy.

Mr Dorji concluded by humbly submitting to the SRCMF members to kindly advocate for the proposal through Board members of SDF in their respective countries.

Dr Dipanjan Roy thanked Mr Dorji Wandi for the brief overview of the SDF project proposal. He appraised the participants that SRCMF has drafted SDF matching grant project proposal which is complimentary to the current RBM/UNOPS 1-year grant. He further urged all

member states to kindly go through board members of SDF board and support advocacy for SRCMF proposal. He gave a quick overview of the proposed areas of the projects like strengthening health information & surveillance system along districts in Cross-border areas, strengthening community information and surveillance system, better Cross-border coordination at subnational level, advocacy and good evaluation for making informed decisions. He further added that adequate allocation from national programs to sustain the program need to be given top priority

Dr Jigmi Singay reiterated that SDF has to be an active partner in elimination of three diseases in the Region for maximum benefit of SAARC member states.

Chair pointed out that all SRCMF Members need to sensitize the SDF Board Members of respective countries and advised SRCMF to inform countries either through Health Ministries, Country National Programmes or CCMs.

- **Tuberculosis**

The session on Tuberculosis was presented by Ms Natasha Dawa, Program Officer, SRCMF Secretariat highlighting that the malaria elimination in the cross-border areas in the countries of the region is progressing with RBM/UNOPS funding support, the next disease of concern in the region is Tuberculosis. In line with the earlier recommendation of the 4th SRCMF meeting Secretariat is now taking on the Cross-border Tuberculosis elimination program.

Discussion points:

1. Tuberculosis is major issue in the region and accounts for almost half of the Worlds Tuberculosis and would therefore need regional coordination to develop feasible plan to address Cross-border Tuberculosis transmission.
2. Complexity of human population movement (migrants/displaced population) and its role in the spread of disease is critical for the development of effective TB control strategies.
3. Due to size and magnitude of problem, technical, facility and technological requirements and size of funding requirement is going to be large. SRCMF would need to make a very good case to get resources and support for Cross-border activities for tuberculosis.

4. Need to strengthen the ability of health systems to provide accessible, affordable and acceptable services for Cross-border Tuberculosis Control.

Chair emphasised that Global Fund also Recognised Tuberculosis in Asia as a very serious issue and situation is further aggravated due to COVID-19 pandemic, which needs to be addressed.

3.4.6 Report on the recent meetings

The session on MTWG meeting and baseline survey on impact of Covid-19 pandemic on malaria elimination programmes and Strategy development was presented by Dr Shampa Nag Resource person, highlighting the following points:

- **Malaria Technical Working Group (MTWG) Meeting update**

1st meeting of the MTWG was held on December 20, 2021 (Chair - Prof. Dr. Mohammad Abul Faiz, Former Global Fund Board Member, SEA Region and Co-chair - Dr. Tanu Jain, Director, NCVBDC).

Key Recommendations of the MTWG:

- a) CCM representation in MTWG should be on a rotation basis to maintain the size small and effective.
- b) National malaria programmes should be represented in the MTWG; starting with select countries followed by other countries in SEA Region.
- c) Representation of the Global Fund BM and ABM to be reviewed and decided later.
- d) Reasonable range to be suggested for arriving at number of MTWG member & composition depending on requirement and areas of focus at a given time to render MTWG effective.
- e) MTWG should focus mainly on cross-border program management, systems strategic guidance, institutional capacity building, in harmonization with WHO technical guidance.
- f) The TOR of MTWG should be refined, and shared with respective members and countries to make it functional.

Proposed Roles and Responsibilities of the MTWG:

- a) Advise on agenda setting for cross-border coordination initiatives in SEA.

- b) Guide cross-border program management and systems guidance and related strategic plans, action plans, reports, capacity and institution building.
- c) Guide strengthening of stakeholder, partner and donor coordination.
- d) Advise on resource mobilization.
- e) Review progress made vis-à-vis milestones and targets related to cross-border coordination.
- f) Review opportunities, challenges regarding cross-border coordination, and recommend way forward, mitigation measures.

The roles and responsibilities will remain dynamic and will be reviewed periodically in discussion with the Global Fund SEA constituency countries and the MTWG members.

- **Survey to Support Development of Strategic Framework on Cross-border Coordination to Accelerate Malaria Elimination in SEA**

Cross-border coordination efforts in SEA

- a) Several efforts have been made in the SEA Region for long to tackle malaria along international borders and through cross-border collaboration.
- b) The WHO has played and continue to play key role in providing technical leadership, and in facilitating such efforts towards achieving and sustaining malaria elimination in the region. In addition to technical guidance, an operational framework was released in 2018
- c) Various partner agencies (the Global Fund, APLMA-APMEN, RBM Partnership to End Malaria, SRCMF and others) are emphasizing on cross-border actions.

Methodology

- 1) SWOT analysis
- 2) Desk review of available documents (policy, strategy, guidelines, published and grey literature)
- 3) Development and administration of survey questionnaire, key informant interviews

Survey Questionnaire – key components

- 1. Overall country profile
- 2. Identification of districts on both sides of international border
- 3. Malaria situation and information on key indicators (with emphasis on border districts)
- 4. Mapping of health facilities within 10 Km of border

5. Current strategy, policy, guidelines
6. Information on cross-border strategy, roadmap, on-going initiatives
7. Partnership landscape
8. Challenges and way forward

Key Strategic Elements

- a) Facilitating country specific cross-border coordination roadmaps with costing informed by comprehensive situation analysis, other available evidence
- b) Advancing cross-border coordination especially at local levels including joint planning, joint reviews, joint communication, sharing of malaria information
- c) Aligning with National Strategic Plans and complementing national endeavours
- d) Drawing on the technical guidance by the WHO as well as strategy, guidelines of RBM Partnership, the Global Fund and other partner organizations
- e) Urging country ownership and sustained commitments for cross-border coordination
- f) Calling attention to universal and equitable access to quality diagnosis, treatment and prevention for all at risk and vulnerable populations in border areas including mobile and migrant populations, indigenous/ethnic groups, disadvantaged/underserved communities, women, children
- g) Emphasizing strengthening of surveillance and M&E in border areas relevant to the context
- h) Supporting strengthening of health systems with emphasis on building capacities and coordination at subnational (district level and below) level informed by needs assessments
- i) Supporting strengthening of community systems through intensified engagement
- j) Leveraging cross-learning from other programmes (polio, HIV/AIDS, TB, others) and current COVID-19 pandemic
- k) Emphasizing multi-sector coordination with various national/international agencies, CSOs drawing on partnership landscape analysis for harmonization of efforts and efficient resource use
- l) Exploring linkages with existing inter-country cooperation beyond health/malaria, where feasible

- **Survey to Support Assessment of Impact of COVID-19 on Malaria Programmes in SEA COVID-19 and Malaria Programme**
 - a) The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic has ushered a huge crisis and posed immense challenges at individual, family, society levels in the world disrupting health and well-being, systems and capacities, socio-economic development.
 - b) The pandemic has disrupted service delivery upsetting the progress made so far in many countries. The situation remains variable despite vaccination campaigns.
 - c) Mitigation measures to counter and minimize adverse impact on service delivery were taken and are continue to be taken in countries.
 - d) The pandemic has provided insights regarding the critical need for strengthening of health care service delivery including delivery of malaria services, amongst others.
 - e) Documenting COVID-19 related challenges and lessons learned is expected to better inform strategic planning, implementation with built-in risk-awareness, preparedness relevant for local context.

Survey Questionnaire – key components

1. Overall information on COVID-19
2. Malaria situation in recent years
3. Impact of COVID-19 on malaria service delivery
4. Mitigation measures including guidelines, advisory, communication
5. Partnerships and collaborations
6. Way forward

Methodology:

- 1) Desk review of available documents (guidelines, published and grey literature),
- 2) Web search
- 3) development and administration of survey questionnaire, key informant interviews

Dr Shampa Nag informed the participants that the Survey questionnaires are shared with some of the experts and inputs incorporated and survey is already in progress.

The meeting noted the ongoing survey reported by the consultant.

3.4.7 Logo for SRCMF

The session on SRCMF logo was presented by Ms Natasha Dawa, program officers, SRCMF Secretariat highlighting the following points:

1. The design samples of SRCMF Logo, was circulated to all member countries, with a request for comments & selection of suitable sample & also to indicate, in case none of the sample was to countries liking
2. Based on the feedback and voting, logo was redesigned by the consultant

The redesigned SRCMF logo was submitted to the 5th SRCMF meeting, for kind endorsement, approval and comments.

Recommendation:

1. top and bottom line of the logo should be in same font preferably in Calibre or Candara.

In principle SRCMF logo was approved and adopted with suggested changes

3.4.8 Website

The session on SRCMF Website was presented by Natasha Dawa, program officers, SRCMF Secretariat highlighting the following points:

1. All the administrative requirements for selection of the vender for development of website has been met
2. Process for development, of the website is already on
3. Meeting for detailed discussions on the content of the website is planed with countries.
4. In the next meeting all the comments and commitment of the countries will be presented

3.5 Presentation on 2022 work plan

Dr Jigmi Singay, Executive Secretary SRCMF presented the 2022 work plan for approval as follows:

- a) SRCMF Bi-Annual Meeting on Half Yearly basis,
 - Feb (2nd half)/ March (1st Half) &
 - Nov (2nd half) / Dec (1st half)
- b) CFP Project Proposal Development for UNOPS/RBM and other Project Proposal Development in II QTR (March – May)
- c) Technical Committee Meeting:
 - Malaria on Quarterly basis (Feb, June, Aug, Oct.)
 - TB on half yearly basis (March and Nov)
 - Resource Mobilization on half Yearly basis (March and Nov)
- d) Bilateral Meeting- National/State/Province Level
 - on half Yearly basis (March and Sep.)
- e) Bilateral Meeting- District Level-
 - Quarterly (March, June, Sep & Dec.)
- f) Bilateral Meeting- Local Level-
 - Monthly- (Jan- Dec)
- g) Donors and Partners Coordination Meeting-
 - Half Yearly (Mostly one on one meeting- Jan-Feb and Sep-Oct)
- h) Resource Mobilization Coordination Meeting when opportunity arises with Donors-
 - Half Yearly-(May/ June and Sep/Oct.)
- i) Monitoring to track progress on Cross-Border Coordination-
 - Quarterly (March, June, Sep and Dec).
- j) Review Meeting-
 - Half Yearly (Apr. and Nov)
- k) There might be some ad-hoc meeting because of urgency which will be accommodated accordingly

In absence of any comments 2022 work plan was approved

3.6 Resource Mobilization Committee Chair Nomination

Dr Jigmi Singay, Executive Secretary cum Coordinator highlighted the importance of resources for success of any program. Therefore, he added that SRCMF would need a dedicated Chair appointed by governing body who is linked to GF constituency leadership and board and

would be available for some years. He pointed out that in earlier Resource Mobilisation meeting it was felt that perhaps Alternate Board Member would be most appropriate person considering the seniority and experience. From this point of view and as in the past Dr. Kuldeep Singh Sachdeva the Focal Point of GF CCM and later as Alternate board member was considered for this post. SRCMF secretariat therefore proposed Dr. Shobini Rajan, DDG/ India CCM Focal Point and Alternate Board Member for Chairing the Resource Mobilisation Committee.

In absence of any comment's proposal of secretariat was endorsed.

4. CLOSING SESSION

The draft summary report was verbally presented by the Prof Dr Prakash Ghimire, Rapporteur. He mentioned that all the comments and recommendation have been duly noted by the Rapporteur and secretariat. It will be reflected in the draft report. All the participants were requested to comments on the draft report, for finalization.

The Executive Secretary briefly addressed the closing session. He thanked all the participants for their active participation and valuable contributions. He also thanked Chair for his leadership in conducting the meeting and also continuing to chair in absence of Co-chair and bringing to a successful conclusion. He also looked forward to guidance of Dr. Suriya Wongkongkathep in development of regional Global Fund project proposals. Further he thanked the rapporteur, resource persons and partners, donors and the inaugural session speakers for their kind participation, valuable guidance, contribution and suggestions. He informed the meeting that SRCMF is in transition phase and currently about 2-3 staff are actively working and SRCMF depends a lot on its resource persons who have been cooperating and kind enough to respond to the last-minute request. He submitted that Dr Ferdinand Laihad has been recruited for M&E and is expected to join the secretariat very soon. He added that in the next meeting SRCMF will present a recruitment plan in phased manner to take forward the work of SRCMF.

The Chair addressed the closing session by thanking each and every one for their active participation, very productive deliberations and making a very successful meeting. The Chair formally closed the meeting at 3.15 PM IST.

Annexure 1

AGENDA

**5th SEA Regional Coordination Mechanism Forum (SRCMF)
Virtual Meeting, December 28, 2021**

Time		Responsible person(s)
9:45-10:00	Virtual Registration	SRCMF Secretariat
<u>Inaugural Session</u>		
10:00-10:10	Welcome address, Objectives and Expected Outcome of Meeting	Dr. Jigmi Singay

10:10-10:20	Address by Former Global Fund Board Member	Dr Filipe Da Costa
10:20-10:30	Address by Co-Chair, Country and Regional Support Partnership Committee (CRSPC), and Chief Technical Advisor, RBM Partnership to End Malaria	Dr. Melanie Renshaw
10:30-10:40	Address by Director, Health, RTI International India	Dr. Rajiv Tandon
10:40-10:50	Address by Associate Director, Country Programs, APLMA	Dr Harsh Rajvanshi
10:50-11:00	Address by Former Global Fund Board Member	Prof. Dr. Mohammad Abul Faiz
11:00-11:10	Key note Address by Global Fund Board Member	Dasho Kunzang Wangdi
11:10-11:20	Vote of Thanks by Program Officer, SRCMF Secretariat	Ms Natasha Dawa
<u>Business Session</u>		
11:20-11:25	Appointment of Office Bearers- Chair, Co-Chair and Rapporteur	Dr. Jigmi Singay
11:25-11:35	1. Adoption of Agenda 2. Approval and Adoption of the 4 th SRCMF Report	Chair
11:35-1:45	3. Submission of annual report a) Recommendations of 4 th SRCMF Meeting -Comments and Discussion b) RBM/UNOPS Project implementation -Comments and Discussion c) Administrative and Financial Report -Comments and Discussion a) Address on ongoing RBM/UNOPS Project and 2 nd and 3 rd Year Funding -Comments and Discussion b) Report on Project Proposals development • SAARC Development Fund (SDF) -Comments and Discussion • Tuberculosis -Comments and Discussion c) Report on meetings • Malaria Technical Working Group (MTWG) Meeting update -Comments and Discussion • Baseline survey on impact of Covid-19 pandemic on malaria elimination programmes and Strategy development.	-Dr. Jigmi Singay " -Mr Anil Chitkara -Dr. Melanie Renshaw -Mr Dorji Wangdi & Dr Dipanjan Sujit Roy -Ms Natasha Dawa -Dr Shampa Nag "

	<p>-Comments and Discussion</p> <p>d) Logo for SRCMF -Comments and Discussion</p> <p>e) Website -Comments and Discussion</p> <p>4. Presentation on 2022 work plan -Comments and Discussion</p>	<p>-Ms Natasha Dawa</p> <p>”</p> <p>-Dr. Jigmi Singay</p>
1.45-2:00	LUNCH BREAK	
2:00-2:10	5. Resource Mobilization Committee Chair Nomination	Chair Dr Jigmi Singay
2:10-2:15	AOB	Dr. Jigmi Singay
2:15-2:25	Preparation of Report by Rapporteur	Rapporteur
<u>Closing Session</u>		
2:25-3:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of Report by Rapporteur • Discussion & Adoption of the Report • Comments of the Participants • Closing Remarks by Executive Secretary, SRCMF • Formal Closing of the Meeting by Chair 	<p>Chair</p> <p>Rapporteur</p> <p>Dr Jigmi Singay</p> <p>Chair</p>

Annexure 2**Latest List of participants****5th SEA Regional Coordination Mechanism Forum (SRCMF)
Virtual Meeting, December 28, 2021**

SL	Name	Designation	Organization	Country	Email Address
1	Dasho Kunzang Wangdi	Board Member, GF SEA Constituency	CCM Bhutan	Bhutan	dashokunzang@gmail.com
2	Suneeta Chhetri	GF SEA Constituency	CCM Bhutan	Bhutan	bhutanccm@gmail.com

		Communication Focal Point (CFP)			
3	Prof.Dr Mohammad Abul Faiz	Former Global Fund Board Member	CCM Bangladesh	Bangladesh	drmafaiz@gmail.com
4	Mr. Tandin Dorji	Member, SRCMF	CCM Bhutan	Bhutan	Tandindorji@health.gov.bt
5	Ms. Gitanjali Mohanty	Coordinator	CCM India	India	iccmsect-mohfw@gov.in
6	Dr. Slamet Basir	Member SRCMF	CCM Indonesia	Indonesia	slamet_basir@yahoo.com
7	Dr. Rita Kusriastut	Alternate Member, SRCMF	CCM Indonesia	Indonesia	ritakus@yahoo.com
8	Dr. Samhari Basweden	Executive Secretary	CCM Indonesia	Indonesia	samharib@yahoo.com
9	Ms. Aishath Samiya	Member SRCMF	CCM Maldives	Maldives	aishath.samiya@gmail.com
10	Mr. Ahemd Afaal	Alternate Member, SRCMF	CCM Maldives	Maldives	afaal@adkenterprises.com
11	Mr. Abdul Hameed	Coordinator	CCM Maldives	Maldives	hameed.nap@gmail.com
12	Mr. Sandesh Neupane	Coordinator	CCM Nepal	Nepal	sandesh.neupane2013@gmail.com
13	Dr. Lakshmi Somatunga	Member SRCMF Additional Secretary (Public Health Services) Ministry of Health	CCM Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	lsomatunga@hotmail.com
14	Dr. Mahendra Arnold	Alternate Member SRCMF	CCM Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	mahendra_arnold@yahoo.com
15	Ms Hirusha Aluwich	CCM Coordinator	CCM Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	ccmsrilanka@gmail.com
16	Dr.Suriya Wongkhongkathep	Chair CCM, Member SRCMF	CCM Thailand	Thailand	suriya@health.moph.go.th
17	Dr. Phusit Prakongsai	Alternate Member, SRCMF	CCM Thailand	Thailand	phusit@ihpp.thaigov.net
18	Ms. Phatradasorn Chuangcham (Ja)	CCM Coordinator	CCM Thailand	Thailand	ccmthailand@gmail.com
19	Ms. Sabina Fernandes	Chair CCM, Member SRCMF	CCM Timor-Leste	Timor-Leste	seacsfshe@yahoo.com
20	Mr. Filipe da Costa	Vice Chair CCM, Member SRCMF	CCM Timor-Leste	Timor-Leste	dcfilipe@yahoo.com
21	Mr. Lucio Freitas	Executive Secretary	CCM Timor-Leste	Timor-Leste	samara1472@yahoo.co.id
22	Dr Partha Pratim Mandal	Partner	WHO		mandalp@who.int
23	Dr. Melanie Renshaw	Partner/Donor	RBM/UNOPS		melanie@endmalaria.org
24	Dr Harsh Rajvanshi	Partner	APLMA/APME N	India	hrajvanshi@aplma.org

25	Dr. Rajiv Tondan	Partner	RTI International India	India	rtandon@rti.org
26	Dr. Shampa Nag	Resource Person	SRCMF	India	drshampa@gmail.com
27	Ferdinand Laihad	Resource Person	SRCMF	Indonesia	fjlaihad1@gmail.com
28	Dr. Olavi Elo	Resource Person	SRCMF	Geneva	olavi.elo@gmail.com
29	Dr. S D Gupta	Resource Person	SRCMF	India	sdgupta@iihmr.edu.in
30	Dr Muhammad Asri Amin	Resource Person	SRCMF	India	muhammad_asri@yahoo.com
31	Dr Dipanjan Sujit Roy	Resource Person	SRCMF	India	doc.pune@gmail.com
32	Petchsri Sirinirund	Resource Person	SRCMF		spetchsri@gmail.com
33	Dr Krongthong Thimasarn	Resource Person	SRCMF	Thailand	krongtho95@yahoo.com
34	Prof. Dr. Prakash Ghimire	Resource Person	SRCMF	Nepal	prakashghimire@gmail.com
35	Dr. Jigmi Singay	Executive Secretary	SRCMF Secretariat	Bhutan	jigmi2118@gmail.com
36	Ms Natasha Dawa	Program Officer	SRCMF Secretariat	India	dawanatasha@gmail.com
37	Anil Chitkara	Finance Officer	SRCMF Secretariat	India	chitkara_a@hotmail.com
38	Dr. Nishikant Bele	Information Technologist	SRCMF Secretariat	India	nr_bele@yahoo.com