

South East Asia Regional Coordination Mechanism Forum (SRCMF)

Meeting of the Malaria Technical Working Group (MTWG)

On 28-12-22

Minutes

An online meeting of the SRCMRF was held on 28 December 2022 to discuss about the development of e learning modules for cross border malaria control (India-Bhutan to start with, India-Nepal, India-Bangladesh).

The agenda of the meeting and list of the participants of the meeting are placed at Annexure 1a and 1 b.

Dr. Jigmi Singay, Executive Secretary and Coordinator, SRCMF welcomed the participants and informed them that the objective of the meeting was to effectively support bilateral collaboration between countries, and obtain guidance from the MTWG in development of the e learning modules.

He then requested Dr. Palitha Abeykoon to chair the meeting and consider chairing subsequent meetings related to HR and training.

Dr. Palitha accepted the request to chair the meeting. Dr. Palitha, Chair of the meeting invited participants for a quick round of introduction. He then invited Dr. S.N. Mishra, Resource Person to make a presentation regarding the learning module.

Dr. Mishra, at the outset, shared the objectives of the presentation which were to guide a standard e module for the malaria supervisors and District Malaria Officers of cross border areas and decide on the content of the module. He set the context of the need of the e module to operationalize a common training plan for health workers carrying out malaria activities in the cross-border areas of India and Bhutan which was discussed in the Indo-Bhutan meeting on 8 and 9 December 2022. He shared the advantages of digital resources - can be utilized as per convenience of the participants, downloadable in the electronic devices at hand and can be updated as and when required. The digital resources can be power points, trainer notes, audio-visuals aids, links to resources and will be scenario based. The methodology will include:

- (a) Content development as in Operational Plan with technical and operational aspects by consultants and whetting by Expert group.
- (b) Identification of about 15 potential trainers locally and training them through Training of trainers (Tot) by local and international experts using online mode
- (c) Training of cross border staff members through hybrid mode with availability of digital content post training as well and supportive supervision of the participants.
- (d) Information sharing
- (e) Content will be developed on the basis of the Malaria Operational plan

Dr. Mishra then proposed a e- learning module of 2 – 2 ½ hours with a tentative list of topics of information sharing on malaria control activities along the borders in format, patient based interventions, joint monitoring, reporting and other cross border activities, tracking of programme indicators, mapping of high risk areas and advocacy activities. He concluded by identifying the immediate next steps such as finalization of content by an Expert Group identified by SRCMR, finalization of module and identification of local level supervisors as participants for ToT.

The ensuing discussions are presented in the following table:

	Points	Discussion	Decision for Action
1	Training Needs Assessment	Need for Training Needs Assessment as well as Pre and Post training assessment	A short online Training Needs Assessment will be done. Pre and post assessment will be done during the trainings, which will be useful for future trainings
2	Content	Also include Entomological content in addition to Epidemiological content since border areas have forest	National training content will serve as a source. Very good suggestion, will be considered by MTWG
3	Meeting of Supervisors in a physical mode	It will be a good opportunity for supervisors to meet and review the activities together for better coordination	This has to be deliberated by MTWG
4	Launch of e module	Implementation plan should also be included in addition to content development	Will be done
5	E- learning modules in border areas which are highly heterogenous	E learning modules are in various stages of development across SE Asia, including within countries. Heterogeneity of border areas have to be kept in mind - eco epidemiological situation and settings; some settings may be in control, some in elimination, some in POR (prevention of reestablishment), hence modules should be context specific. A clustering of countries could be done which has to be decided by experts	In the context of India and Bhutan, Bhutan is ahead of India in many of the indicators. Content will be designed such that there will be generic stuff and also country specific. This can be deliberated further before finalisation. Clustering of countries can be considered by a larger group of experts.
6	Existing resources and guidelines	WHO has shared guidance in June 2022, including for border areas and different settings. Each country also has own set of training modules, guidelines, operational guidelines, including M & E plans with indicators. Instead of loading countries with more indicators, those which can be accepted from existing reference material should be adopted.	The existing resources will be referred for development of modules. One of the modules will look at community as the main beneficiaries of the programmes, community mobilization and participation will be part of training. There will be a separate unit in the training team for this.

		The Global Fund also shared guidelines in December 2022 for the next funding request applications. For identifying hot spots, it is important to define risk populations, to identify community rights and gender barriers. As part of orienting countries. If this is also captured in e learning module as people centred approaches, it would be good.	
7	Surveillance to be Action oriented	Module should stress on actions – eg how to do in the context of surveillance	Training has to stress on an action based approach
8	Meetings of cross border teams	Training is important, e learning modules are convenient, however, it is also important to encourage cross border teams to meet so that exchanging information can be more effective.	It is important, which has to happen through planned Joint Monitoring visits along with the e learning.
9	Data sharing - Confidentiality of patient information	Sharing names of patients in the formats to be provided in the e learning modules may not be appropriate.	Only IDs will be shared as per country guidelines.
10	Model of implementation e learning	It is important to outline the entire plan of model implementation – is it only for programme personnel, will it also be for NGOs/other organizations, community?	NGOs/other organizations can be included.
11	SRCMF- role	SRCMF will not create parallel programmes	Programme guidelines will be followed and SRCMF will facilitate to achieve the targets within guidelines, mobilize resources and maintain sustainability.

The meeting was ended by the Chairperson, outlining the road ahead which is about developing the module and testing the prototypes before finalization of the e learning module.

Annexure 1 a**SRCMF Malaria Technical Working Group (MTWG) Meeting
28 Dec 2022 at 10 am (IST)**

Draft Agenda

Time		Responsible person (s)
9:30-10:00	Virtual Registration	SRCMF Secretariat
<u>Inaugural Session</u>		
10:00-10:05	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome• Objective and expected outcomes of the meeting	-Dr. Jigmi Singay, Executive Secretary cum Coordinator, SRCMF
10:05-10:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Self-introduction	All resource persons/participants
<u>Business Session</u>		
10:15-10:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appointment of the Chair of the MTWG meeting	-Dr Jigmi Singay
10:20-11: 45	Adoption of Agenda 1. Presentation on development of a standard e-learning module -Discussions 2. Present on contents of the e-module based on the agreed bilateral joint program activities in the bilateral meetings -Discussions 3. AOB	-Chair -Dr SN Misra, Resource Person -do- -Dr Jigmi Singay
<u>Closing Session</u>		
11:50-12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final comments of the participants• Closing remarks by the Chair of the MTWG meeting	-Chair

Annexe 1 b

SRCMF MTWG Meeting

SN	Name	Designation	Organization	Country	Email address
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