



CAP-Malaria Newsletter

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CAP-MALARIA
CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF MALARIA

Foreword

On April 25, 2016, people around the world took part in Malaria Day activities under the WHO's theme "End Malaria for Good". The goal to 'end malaria for good' requires communities, private and public sectors, and countries to work together to "get rid of malaria completely" for the 'good' of the world. CAP-Malaria also supported malaria day campaigns in Myanmar, Cambodia, and Thailand which highlighted the need for partnerships and celebrated progress and commitment in the fight to end malaria. For Malaria Day in Sampov Loun, Cambodia, the event was attended by counterparts from Chanthaburi (Thailand), religious and community leaders and local school children. Young students put together dance performance and a play about malaria which can be viewed on our Facebook page. The work that CAP-Malaria supports cannot be done without the participation from the community, particularly, village volunteers such as Ms. Nok Lek, in Thailand. The dedication and spirit shown by Nok Lek and other CAP-Malaria volunteers inspire our team to work long hours in difficult conditions, spending many nights away from home. We hope you like our stories and share with your friends.



Group Photo of "From Now Till 2030: Awareness workshop on current USAID programs on Health training"

Advocacy and Partnership – ingredients for sustainable malaria control efforts

The government of Myanmar (formerly Burma) and local ethnic minority organizations have agreed on the convergence roadmap towards reconciliation and increased inclusion. However, years of political instability have led to patchy health service coverage in remote corners of the country. In consultation with USAID|Burma, CAP-Malaria works to promote sustainability of malaria control efforts by engaging and building capacity of local NGOs to implement malaria control programs, particularly in remote and border areas where it is difficult for international NGOs and health staff to effectively operate.

The Karen Department of Health and Welfare (KDHW) under the Karen National Union, set out to promote health and welfare of Kayin ethnic minorities covering the townships of Bago, Mon, Kayin and Tanintharyi.

Recently, joint coordination efforts between PMI|USAID CAP-Malaria project, USAID|Burma and the KDHW led to the organization of a training/advocacy workshop targeting health workers under KDHW. The 2-days workshop "From Now Till 2030: Awareness Workshop on Current USAID Programs on Health Training" was organized in February 2016 for 54 participants who are mostly from KDHW. The welcome remarks were given by William Slater, Director, Office of Public Health, USAID|Burma and Ed Marta, Malaria Program Coordinator from KDHW. The meeting was also attended by the WHO|Myanmar and USAID partners in Burma including CAP-Malaria|URC, PSI, FHI360, JHPIEGO, and IRC.

Training included topics on malaria epidemiology and strategy for malaria control and elimination by Dr. Saw Lwin (Regional Technical Coordinator, CAP-Malaria), as well as other training topics on TB, HIV and maternal and child health care training conducted by USAID partners. The advocacy portion also included an update on USAID policy to partners and local NGOs. The advocacy efforts also resulted in an agreement with KDHW and KNU to support CAP-Malaria's malaria control efforts in 41 highly endemic villages in 8 Townships that are under KNU areas in order to sustain progress made so far. Behind the technical discussion and information sharing, the expression of commitment for continued partnership echoed at the event made it a joyful occasion, as it marked another step toward peace and reconciliation in Myanmar.



Non Lek helps translating in Khmer and Thai languages for HPH staff and Cambodian migrant patient. Photo: CAP-Malaria, March 2016.

Vital Role of Village Volunteer in Increasing Malaria Services Access

Ms. Nok Lek Bundakrun has been a CAP-Malaria volunteer in Samrong Village, Chanthaburi, for 3 years. Her name means small bird, but there is nothing small about her motivation and her heart, “I wanted to be a CAP-Malaria volunteer because I see how hard migrants work while having so little.” She provides malaria education to migrants and to farm owners who have direct contact with migrant workers. Nok Lek knows very well the interdependence relationship between Thai employers and Cambodian migrants, “It is not enough that I explain to migrants because they can be shy or

afraid to ask for help, so I also need to explain to their (Thai) employers about benefits of insecticide treated nets, malaria symptoms, prevention and where to get free services, so they (employers) can take care of their workers.”

As CAP-Malaria volunteer, she helped to distribute insecticide-treated bed nets to migrants and regularly visited workers to encourage proper and consistent use, and to make sure that new migrants receive bed nets on a timely basis. It is not only strong young men that cross the border in search of work, but there are also women with young children that they cannot leave behind. Nok Lek say “I’m a new mom so I want to help migrant mothers protect their babies from getting malaria by showing them how to use insecticidal nets properly.”

Language barriers between migrant patients and Thai service providers can mean that information on treatment and potential side-effects may not be communicated appropriately and may result in non-compliance to the treatment regimen. Furthermore, strategic information may not be obtained from patient’s history and travel history to identify transmission foci and guide malaria control responses. Bi-lingual volunteers like Nok Lek can help bridge these gaps. CAP-Malaria provided training on patient’s history form and case interview form to volunteers like Nok Lek so she can provide accurate translation between migrant patients and health officers anytime, anywhere. Nok Lek says “I understand (the patient interview form), so I can translate well even over the phone. CAP-Malaria staff trained us several times and provided feedback often. That is very convenient because patients would not have to wait for me to come to the health facility.”

Nok Lek is very happy and proud of her contribution to the community “In the past, I did not know how to distribute nets and interview malaria patients, but now I’m confident that I’m giving the right information and making my community, Thai and migrants, a little better.”

World Malaria Day 2016 conducted in Sampov Loun

On 25 April, 2016, the Cambodian National Malaria Control Program (CNMCP) in collaboration with implementing partners conducted World Malaria Day (WMD) events in 20 malaria endemic provinces to draw attention of at-risk populations to malaria, engage community and local authorities’ participations and call for multi-sectoral collaboration.

The PMI/USAID CAP-Malaria project supported CNMCP, Provincial Health Departments (PHDs) and Operational District (ODs) to organize the WMD events in 3 of 4 target provinces - Pursat, Battambang, and Stung Treng. “End Malaria for Good” and “Together We Can Eliminate Malaria”, were the main themes, and promotional materials supported by PMI/USAID CAP-Malaria included long sleeve shirts and banners.

In Battambang Province, CAP-Malaria, in collaboration with CNMCP and Battambang Provincial Health Department, hosted the WMD event in Kamrieng District, Sampov Loun OD, where the project has been supporting the implementation of a basic essential package for malaria pre-elimination.

In addition to the objectives mentioned earlier, the WMD event organized in Kamrieng increased awareness of stakeholders on malaria pre-elimination and advocated for the participation of local authorities, uniformed services, and communities.

During the event, all relevant stakeholders participated, including delegates from CNMCP, Battambang PHD, SPL OD and HFs. Moreover, Kamrieng District Special Working for Malaria Pre-elimination members including Deputy District Governor who is the Chair of the group, village malaria workers, school teachers, students and villagers took part, as did delegates of the Chanthaburi Provincial Health Office, too.

The WMD event started with a parade featuring traditional energetic dancing (Chai Yam), and displays of banners and signs with compelling malaria elimination messages. Arriving at the stage, monks blessed all participants who were then welcomed by the Kamrieng District Deputy Governor via his speech. The crowd was welcomed by Dr. Chan Davoeng, Provincial Malaria Supervisor, Dr. Kheang Soy Ty, Regional Director, URC, and Dr. Siv Sovannaroth, Chief of Technical Bureau of CNMCP. Finally, Dr. Ouk Vithiea, Deputy Director, Battambang PHD read a letter of support from Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia.

Participants were then treated to a role play performed by students. Delegates were invited to visit the information booth, and the event ended when balloons with the WMD theme “End Malaria for Good” were released.



Kamrieng District Deputy Governor and Chair of District Special Working Group for malaria pre-elimination provides welcome speech. Photo: Kharn Lina