



Global Alliance for the Development and Deployment of Alternatives to DDT

Document prepared to facilitate the transfer of leadership from the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to UNEP Chemicals Branch

Background

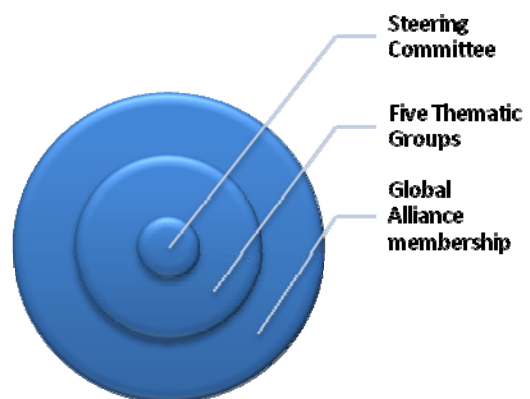
The fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (COP) in its decision SC 5/6 requested the Secretariat to facilitate a transition of the leadership of the Global Alliance for the Development and Deployment of Alternatives to DDT for Disease Vector Control, in a sustainable manner, from the Secretariat to one or more United Nations agencies whose mandate is better suited to the implementation of a major project such as the global alliance. It also invited the United Nations Environment Programme, to take over the administration and implementation of the Global Alliance and collaborate with the World Health Organization.

The Global Alliance provides a coordinated and synergized instrument for partnerships and collaboration among all stakeholders to increase momentum on achieving the common DDT and malaria goals and to catalyze new initiatives for the development and deployment of alternative vector control products and methods in addressing vector borne diseases. It will emphasize the work required to develop and bring safe, environmentally friendly and cost effective alternatives to countries where they are needed and in catalyzing significant local action in support of governments legally binding requirements under the Stockholm Convention and national goals.

Status of Establishment

An effective and well received functional structure for the implementation of the Global Alliance including a Global Alliance Assembly, a strategy for implementation, a Steering Committee to review the priorities and progress towards achieving the agreed goals and thematic groups covering all key objectives were established and approved by the Assembly between 2010 and 2011.

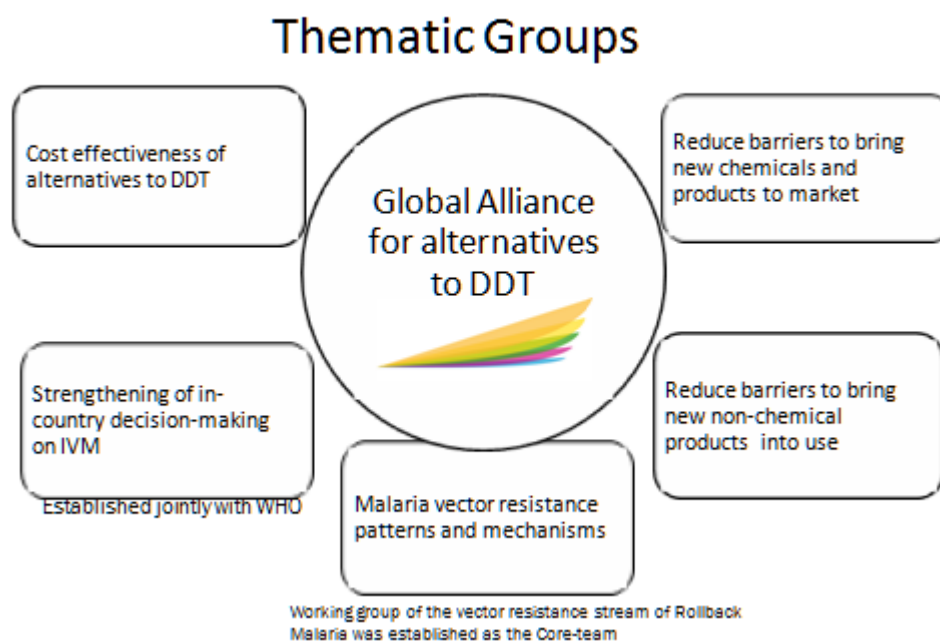
The implementing strategy developed by the Steering Committee and endorsed by the Alliance Assembly at its first meeting held on the 26 April 2011 consists of five Thematic Groups to undertake focused interventions within each theme to achieve the objectives. The Thematic Groups established consist of small core teams of experts comprising relevant stakeholders with linkages to ongoing parallel initiatives. These Thematic Groups lead the activities under the objective of the Group and coordinate the related work carried out by Thematic Group members and associated institutions.



Medium term implementation plans were established under each of the five themes by the respective core teams of experts that formed a roadmap for the Global Alliance with short-term and

long-term goals. Implementation of the activities has begun. A reference list of the reports and related documents of the activities of the Global Alliance are annexed to this document.

It is proposed that this well accepted structure be maintained along with the strategy for implementation that was developed and approved by the Global Alliance Assembly. The emphasis of the Alliance should be adjusted to pay particular attention to implementation activities at the national and regional levels to assist Parties in meeting their objectives and obligations under the Stockholm Convention. It will seek to achieve the dual purpose of eliminating both the use of DDT and the elimination of malaria.



Roadmap of the Global Alliance

Initially, the Global Alliance will focus on four principal action points within the five themes of interventions as priorities to establish the foundation for implementation of its strategy:

- Develop a harmonized registration system for new vector-control chemicals and products, commencing with a pilot study in selected disease-endemic countries;
- Strengthen entomological capacity at all levels to manage new vector control products, technologies and resistance management strategies;
- Collect evidence on public health values of interventions with emphasis on non-chemical, non-commercial, community-based and environmental interventions;
- Develop advocacy and resource material in order to promote public awareness, understanding, and participation in Integrated Vector Management (IVM) and related cultural and programmatic practices.

A series of activities identified in the medium term plans of the five thematic groups encompassing the above action points will establish a basis for the implementation of a long term plan to make a sustainable transition of disease endemic countries from DDT to the use of safer chemical and nonchemical alternatives.

The projected outcomes of the action points identified above include:

- Initial set of 2 new public health insecticides introduced in selected disease endemic countries within 5 years;
- Improvement of the evaluation, testing, approval and regulatory processes in disease endemic countries to facilitate the introduction of new pesticides for the control of malaria within ten years;
- All exemptions for the use of DDT under the Stockholm Convention are removed within ten years;
- New chemicals and nonchemical alternatives to DDT are readily available and used in disease endemic countries to effectively control disease vectors within 15 years;
- Sound management of chemical and non-chemical vector control options using Integrated Vector Management approaches is in place within 20 years;
- Reduced risk from chemicals used in vector control activities in disease endemic countries is achieved within 25 years while the threat from malaria is eliminated over the same period.

These outcomes would facilitate having the necessary tools and strategies in place by 2017 in the disease endemic countries to effectively address disease vector control without further reliance on DDT. This should strengthen the ability of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention to eliminate further reliance of DDT in disease vector control. It should facilitate the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention at its meeting in 2023 to consider removal of the acceptable purpose use provision on DDT provided in Annex B of the Convention.

Approach

The strategy of the Global Alliance is to trigger significant action to develop and deploy alternatives to DDT by focusing on:

- Mobilizing stakeholders around a common agenda to develop and deploy alternatives to DDT for disease vector control;
- Facilitating stakeholder interactions to strengthen and complement existing initiatives and reduce duplication;
- Identifying and supporting specific opportunities where involvement of actors from diverse cross-sector stakeholder groups is necessary or where a “vacuum” of activities is identified;
- Encouraging investments to develop and deploy alternatives to DDT for disease vector control.

Alliance Assembly

The membership of the Global Alliance in its Assembly provides the policy directions and endorses administrative and related financial matters for its proper implementation. Its key features are:

1. The Global Alliance for the development and deployment of products, methods and strategies as alternatives to DDT for disease vector control was endorsed by the Stockholm Convention Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting (Decision SC4/2) as described in the business plan (UNEP/POPS/COP.4/6/Rev.1).
2. The Alliance Assembly comprises all members of the Global Alliance representing government agencies and other stakeholder organizations including academic and research

institutions, intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations, international financial institutions, private sector groups and professional experts including those involved in practical vector control that are committed to the development and deployment of alternatives to DDT.

3. As the governing body, its role includes the endorsement of the composition of the Steering Committee, approval of the strategy proposed by the Steering Committee and review of the reports of the progress submitted by the Thematic Groups.
4. The following strategies are proposed for the conduct of the meetings of the Alliance Assembly:
 - (a) Two co-chairs will be nominated to conduct the Alliance Assembly meetings representing countries which are Parties to the Stockholm Convention from two different UN regions.
 - (b) The co-chairs are selected with due consideration of:
 - Malaria endemic countries that are listed on the DDT Register of the Stockholm Convention;
 - Geographic balance and differing UN languages;
 - Donor countries supporting the establishment of the Global Alliance;
 - Gender balance;
 - (c) The nominations of the co-chairs are made by the Steering Committee;
 - (d) UNEP Chemicals Branch acts as the Secretariat for the Assembly.
 - (e) The Assembly will meet every two years in association with the Stockholm Convention COP or as otherwise decided by the Global Alliance Assembly.

Membership of Global Alliance

Entities and individuals interested in becoming members of the Global Alliance and therefore members of the Alliance Assembly are invited to sign the Membership Declaration (electronically available from <http://chm.pops.int/Portals/0/download.aspx?d=UNEP-POPS-DDTGA-FORM-Declaration.En.pdf>). All stakeholders including organizations and individuals engaged within the scope of developing and deploying alternatives to DDT for disease vector control are invited to take part.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee consists of 15 members, with two representatives from Stockholm Convention Party countries in each region (ten members) with due consideration to malaria endemic countries and a representative from each of the other group of stakeholders including academic and research institutions, multilaterals, civil society/non-governmental organizations, donor countries/foundations and the private sector (for information, see <http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/DDT/GlobalAlliance/SteeringCommittee/tabid/779/Default.aspx>). In addition to the 15 members, the Stockholm Convention Secretariat and the WHO will be members of the Steering Committee and the Coordinator will be an ex-officio member of the Steering Committee. The role of the Steering Committee is to:

1. Provide strategic direction and priority setting for the Global Alliance; prepare a strategy and submit it to the Alliance Assembly for approval;
2. Approve an annual work plan, monitor and review its implementation;

3. Endorse the establishment and mandates of Thematic Groups and review their periodic progress reports;
4. Identify gaps and issues in the development and deployment of alternatives to DDT based on inputs from members;
5. Provide oversight and guidance for the coordination provided by Chemicals Branch;
6. Support the mobilization of funds for the implementation of the Global Alliance;
7. Review the annual financial report and submit it to the Alliance Assembly for endorsement;
8. Review and approve membership applications to the Global Alliance.

The Steering Committee members will:

1. Have a term of two years and be chaired by a chairperson elected from amongst the Steering Committee members;
2. Meet at least once a year; on an exceptional basis for the elections in 2013 half of the members will serve for a period of one year only in order to ensure continuity amongst the members each year. Each member can serve for no more than two consecutive terms.
3. Review and make amendments to its program of work, strategy and priorities
4. Provide access for the participation of organizations and individual members as observers, and;
5. Define the process for the representation of each stakeholder group on the Steering Committee.

Coordination

The Chemicals Branch is responsible for managing the day to day operations of the Global Alliance and for coordinating the work of the Alliance Assembly, Steering Committee and the Thematic Groups. The coordination in Chemicals Branch is headed by a Coordinator, who is appointed by, and reports to, the host organization in response to the request from the Stockholm COP. Chemicals Branch will act in close cooperation with the WHO in coordinating the work of the Assembly, Steering Committee and the Thematic Groups. The Coordinator will support the Alliance Assembly, the Steering Committee and the Thematic Groups by undertaking the following activities:

1. Provide support to the Steering Committee in formulating a draft strategy and work plan, in consolidating plans and progress reports from Thematic Groups and in identifying gaps and issues;
2. Facilitate the implementation of the strategy and work plan endorsed by the Steering Committee and report to the Steering Committee on the achievement of such strategies and work plan and on the use of resources;
3. Support the Thematic Groups in their organizational set up, in the development of their action plans, in the coordination with other Thematic Groups and in logistical arrangements;
4. Facilitate communication and exchange of learning and information between Members of the Alliance; maintain a peer-reviewed information database on the development and deployment of alternatives to DDT;
5. Monitor the implementation of decisions made by the Steering Committee as well as the progress of the Thematic Groups;

6. Administer, coordinate and manage contracts and other commitments entered into with Members, partners, consultants, suppliers and others, as approved by the Steering Committee;
7. Prepare and manage the annual budget; prepare the annual financial report;
8. Provide organizational and logistical support for the Global Alliance; and
9. Organize meetings of the Global Assembly, the Steering Committee, the Thematic Groups and support groups

Thematic Groups

A core team of experts is established under each Thematic Group (see <http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/DDT/GlobalAlliance/ThematicGroups/tabid/623/Default.aspx>) to develop and implement activities based on the established plan and report their progress to the Steering Committee who will review the programme with respect to achieving the overall objectives. All members of the Global Alliance may participate in any given Thematic Group. Each Thematic Group identifies a lead organization or individual and determine its working mode and meeting schedule in conjunction with the Coordinating Team. It will submit progress reports to the Alliance Assembly every two years and reports to the Steering Committee for review at each of its meetings.

A Thematic Group may take a number of organizational forms: it may be built upon existing networks, hosted and led by an established organization within the UN system, by a recognized public body with a development mission, by an academic/research institution or a private organization.

Currently, there are five areas that have been selected to establish Thematic Groups:

1. Cost effectiveness of alternatives to DDT;
2. Strengthening of in-country decision-making on integrated vector management (IVM);
3. Malaria vector resistance patterns and mechanisms;
4. Reduce barriers to bringing new chemicals and products to market;
5. Reduce barriers to bringing new non-chemical products into use.