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**The core-team meeting of the Thematic Group on Cost-effectiveness
of alternatives to DDT of the Global Alliance for the development
and deployment of alternatives to DDT for diseases vector control**

Geneva, 26th -27th August 2010

Plan of action for the Thematic Group on Cost-effectiveness of alternatives to DDT

August 2010

Stockholm Convention Secretariat

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Introduction

The Thematic group accepts the fundamental need for effective methods for disease vector control, especially for malaria. Unfortunately, analysis on the costs associated with adverse health, environment, economic and other behavioural effects is usually not available for products in use and little is done to obtain such data for new products. Therefore, policy formulation and decision making on disease vector control programmes are often biased towards the cost of the available options in relation to their effectiveness in controlling the disease vectors.

The alternatives to DDT include new active ingredients, new pesticide products, alternative methods and non-chemical options. The lifecycle cost of deploying any option for disease vector control in developing countries needs to be addressed in order that countries make an informed decision on the mix of interventions to use from the range available. The elements for consideration include among others:

- ⇒ Cost of acquisition;
- ⇒ Cost of deployment;
- ⇒ Cost of acute and long-term health and environmental effects;
- ⇒ Cost of disposal of unwanted related material; and
- ⇒ Cost to cross-sector profitability (e.g. marketing of agricultural products, fisheries, etc.)

The assessment of cost-effectiveness should also take into consideration the complexities due to influence from factors of actual field conditions such as vector resistance, varying durations of residual effects of Indoor Residual Spray (IRS) on different surfaces and pricing structure of pesticides used in IRS in different countries.

Often the cost-effectiveness is incorporated as a component at the research and development stage of new vector control tools, and also in vector control initiatives implemented in the field. As the scopes of these different interventions are often not complementary the information on cost-effectiveness generated from such studies may not always provide a basis for comparison of the status of cost-effectiveness.

The plan of action include initial activities and strategies necessary to establish the basis for long term interventions on consideration of effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of DDT and alternatives in disease vector control, while providing interim solutions to support the decision makers in disease endemic countries.

Objective

To use best practices to assess effectiveness and cost-effectiveness when considering DDT and alternative vector control methods in disease endemic countries to support informed decision making in national vector control programmes.

Specific Objectives:

- Establish a global platform for key entities associated with cost-effectiveness towards improving coordination between individual initiatives and addressing gaps in existing initiatives;
- Increase awareness of existing information on cost-effectiveness, ongoing initiatives, and available resources and instruments to facilitate addressing the data gaps;
- Promote development of decision support tools and systems on cost effectiveness to facilitate informed decision making in national vector control programmes;
- Share information, resources and experiences on implementing related programmes.

Activities

The following activities will be carried out:

- Review and update the membership of the core-team and its thematic group to ensure key entities associated with cost-effectiveness are involved (**Aug. 2010**);
- Establish strategies to promote incorporation of related aspects of the objectives of the theme in ongoing and up-coming initiatives to increase synergy (**Aug. 2010**);
- Conduct a review of existing information on cost-effectiveness; (**Sep. 2010- Feb. 2011**)
 - Information and reports on cost and cost effectiveness including recently concluded programmes and studies;
 - Ongoing initiatives and their study scopes;
 - Entities involved and expertise available at the national and regional levels;
 - Established common guidelines, procedures and protocols related to the assessment of cost-effectiveness.
- Develop and implement a strategy to improve and incorporate elements of cost effectiveness in state of the art tools, guidance documents on best practices in vector control, decision guidance tools, and protocols to support national vector control interventions (**Sep. 2010- Feb. 2011**);
- Develop proposal (s) to address the gaps towards achieving the objectives and solicit funding from potential donors (**Oct. 2011**);
- Convene global stakeholder meetings to establish and implement a long term plan (**Dec. 2012**);
- Collect and post related information on a website to share with the global community, including local vector control programme managers (**Dec. 2010 onward**).

Output

The following major outputs are anticipated:

- Collaboration among key entities and initiatives will be coordinated;
- A roadmap for the theme will be established and its implementation initiated;
- Elements of the objectives will be included in relevant projects and programmes;
- Current status and needs on cost-effectiveness will be identified;
- Development of decision support tools and guidance documents will be promoted;
- Programmes to address the gaps will be developed and promoted.

Approach

The approach focuses on building-up the ownership of the programme by all stakeholders and ensuring their full participation:

- A study review will be conducted by a consultant based on recommendations of the core-team;
- The global meeting will comprise key players involved in cost-effectiveness of alternatives to DDT. About 15 to 20 experts or entities along with similar number of relevant government officials representing the Party countries of the Stockholm Convention (disease endemic countries) will implement the proposed activities towards developing a project proposal;
- The participants at this meeting would form a wider group for the Thematic Group on cost effectiveness;
- Development of project proposal(s) in several areas will be carried out in coordination with potential donors;
- Involvement of partner organizations, especially the WHO and its regional offices for technical support, will be ensured;

Timing and budget

Estimated costs for 2010/2011 amounts to USD 130,000.00 and are explained in the table below.

Table 1. Estimated costs for the activities identified for the Thematic Group on Cost-effectiveness for the period of 2010/2011

Activity	Estimated budget (USD) 2010	Estimated budget (USD) 2011
Field survey and processing of information	30,000.00	
Global stakeholder meeting		100,000.00
TOTAL	30,000.00	100,000.00