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UNEP/POPS/DDT /GA/TGIVM.1.3

Distr.: General



**Stockholm Convention
on Persistent Organic
Pollutants**

Original: English

**First meeting of the core-team of the Thematic Group on
strengthening of in-country decision making on Integrated
Vector Management of the Global Alliance for the
development and deployment of alternatives to
DDT for diseases vector control**

Geneva, 06th -07th September 2010

**Plan of action on Strengthening of
In-country Decision Making on IVM**

September 2010

Stockholm Convention Secretariat

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Acronyms

AFRO: World Health Organization regional office for the African region

DDT: Dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane

IGO: Inter-Governmental Organizations

IVM: Integrated Vector Management

POPs: Persistent Organic Pollutants

RBM: Rollback Malaria Programme

UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme

WHO: World Health Organization

WPRO: World Health Organization regional office for the Western Pacific region

Introduction

Integrated Vector Management takes into account the available infrastructure and resources, and integrates all available and effective chemical, biological, or environmental tools and measures on evidence based approach to achieve sustainable and efficient control of the vector. However, evidences to base the decision and skill to properly integrate all available vector control tools are often not found in disease endemic countries. Community participation is a key element in IVM approach. When considering available vector control options for decision making, community acceptance and participation in implementing the programmes are important to take into account for its sustainability and success.

Opportunities should be identified and catalysed to support improvement of the in-country decision-making process at policy formulation level to duly consider an integrated approach for vector management. Mechanisms to strengthen the capacity in decision-making for disease vector control and pesticide regulation are required for successful establishment of effective integrated vector control approach at field level. As many initiatives have been undertaken to introduce IVM into malaria endemic countries, a global network to increase information sharing and to improve communication among all stakeholders is needed to support all the current initiatives.

Capacity needs to be increased for vector control based on principles of IVM at national, regional and global levels in order to make full use of the power of vector control to improve health by preventing, reducing or eliminating vector-borne diseases. Support is required to develop national infrastructure and career opportunities, and strengthening human resource for planning, implementation and evaluation of IVM and sound management of public health pesticides.

Objectives:

Ensure best practices of IVM approach in national vector control programmes in the management of public health diseases towards promotion of reduced reliance on DDT in vector control.

Activities:

The following activities will be carried out with technical support from WHO:

- Establish and implement a mechanism to facilitate ongoing WHO initiatives related to IVM towards developing alternatives to DDT:
 - Establish the core-team of the Thematic Group in collaboration with the WHO;
- Pilot test the draft core training curriculum of IVM developed by the WHO;
- Review existing status of IVM implementation at country level:
 - Develop a questionnaire and conduct a survey (**Mach 2011**) based on available information provided by WHO;
 - Meeting with national programme managers and national IVM focal points towards assessment of present status and needs in the AFRO and WPRO (**June 2011**);
- Develop and improve advocacy material(**December 2010**) and disseminate and communicate advocacy material with key stakeholders;
- Review and document success stories on IVM;
- Seek support and collaboration of key entities involved in IVM;
- Improve capacity for and accessibility of training on IVM related disciplines at regional level in collaboration with in regional training and academic institutions and selected universities (**December 2011**)
- Develop and maintain a reference IVM website with cross linkages to existing website of the stakeholders(**December 2010 onwards**);
- Seek donor support towards enhance in-country capacity on IVM including policy development (**Jan 2012 onwards**).

Outputs:

Major outputs of the proposed programme includes;

- The Thematic Group on IVM is established with clear Terms of reference, membership and WHO's technical support;
- IVM approach is established in DDT using countries;
- Needs assessed to develop a global programme on in-country decision making on IVM;
- Information exchange mechanism is established;
- Coordination between individual initiatives is improved.

Target group:

The activities will target national programme managers of public health vector control in disease endemic countries, Donor community, and IGOs.

Approach:

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

- A core team will be established under the Thematic Group with due consideration of the WHO initiative;
 - A back-to-back meeting of the programme managers with special focus on DDT using countries will be held to establish IVM in national vector control programme;
 - Development of project proposal(s) on the areas identified from the outcome of meetings and surveys for funding by potential donors or to consider action by other initiatives such as RBM;
 - Information exchange mechanism will be established through the Global Alliance website with information generated through the above initiatives;
 - The WHO and Stockholm Convention regional centers will be involved in facilitating the survey and convening the meeting;
 - Involvement of partner organizations, especially the WHO, its regional and local offices for technical support;
 - The Core-team will provide technical support for the development of advocacy materials and establishing linkages with other key stakeholders.
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