



Completion Report

Project Number: 48315-001
Technical Assistance Number: 8681
March 2016

Awareness Raising to Adopt Action for Malaria Elimination in Asia Pacific

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TA Number, Country, and Name:		Amount Approved: USD 225,000	
TA 8681-REG: Awareness Raising to Adopt Action for Malaria Elimination in Asia Pacific		Revised Amount: NA	
Executing Agency:	Source of Funding:	Amount Undisbursed:	Amount Utilized:
Asian Development Bank	Regional Malaria and Other Communicable Disease Threats Trust Fund under the Health Financing Partnership Facility	USD 131,854.20	USD 93,145.80
TA Approval Date: 2 July 2014	TA Signing Date: 2 July 2014	Fielding of First Consultant: 21 August 2014	TA Completion Date: 31 December 2015
			Actual: 31 December 2015
			Account Closing Date: 31 December 2015
			Actual: 18 January 2016
<p>Description The TA was prepared to support countries in the fight against malaria in meeting MDG 6 target to combat malaria through awareness raising and communication for the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) regional malaria elimination initiative. Objectives were (i) to help establish a sustainable regional financing mechanism for malaria and other communicable diseases; (ii) ensure that malaria elimination and control was maintained as priority in Asia Pacific policy agendas so as to protect health gains and prior investments made in previous years. The objectives were met by (i) implementation of awareness raising activities with partners to advocate increase funding in the fight against malaria and (ii) catalyze involvement of new stakeholders, including the private sector, in supporting malaria elimination.</p> <p>Expected Impact, Outcome, and Outputs The expected impact was to have increased strategic investments for malaria control and elimination in Asia and the Pacific from national budgets, donors, and private sector. The expected outcome was malaria awareness-raising and similar campaigns supported in the region. The expected output was to have more visibility for the Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA) and ADB's regional malaria elimination initiative, and to catalyze public and private sector involvement and investment.</p> <p>Delivery of Inputs and Conduct of Activities The TA utilized a combination of an awareness raising meeting, the convening of finance experts, and a learning event to raise awareness about malaria elimination in the region. In compliance with ADB's consulting services guidelines, these activities utilized partnerships with other institutions and the strategic engagement of resource persons instead of the contracting of full-time individual consultants. The approach in employing partnerships and resource persons resulted in the cost-effective utilization of only 41.14% of TA resources to deliver the required outputs. A minor change in implementation arrangement was made in June 2015 to endorse the senior expert consultation on resource mobilization for malaria in support to the TA objective on sustainable regional financing for malaria and other communicable diseases. The finance experts meeting convened in July 2015 brought together resource persons ranging from senior technical staff from development agencies, former Ministers of Finance and Health, private sector finance and policy experts, retired World Bank and ADB staff, and other experts not only resulted in concrete recommendations on increasing financing for malaria elimination but led to the resource persons committing to be champions for malaria elimination in their respective areas of work. The joint learning event for representatives of six DMCs on government and private health sector engagement for malaria elimination and universal health coverage from 3-7 November 2015 in ADB-HQ saw ADB collaborating with the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), Chulalongkorn University of Thailand (CUT) and other academic institutions in Asia and the Pacific in the conduct of the learning event. In order to facilitate the partnerships, a minor change in scope was done in on August 2015 to govern the said collaboration. All the events that were convened were critical inputs that allowed achieving the key TA outputs of: (i) raising APLMA's profile and visibility with key health sector and other stakeholders and (ii) helping promote private and public sector involvement and investment in malaria elimination. The ADB as the Executing Agency (EA), has complied with procurement and consulting services processes, has exercised proper oversight and control of the TA funds and project implementation, and has kept TA files and records. ADB's performance as the EA is therefore satisfactory.</p> <p>Evaluation of Outputs and Achievement of Outcome The TA outputs were meetings as documented by meeting reports and other documents. These meetings all supported the ongoing awareness-raising campaign on attaining malaria elimination in Asia and the Pacific by 2030 – an agenda which has been written as the roadmap for malaria elimination endorsed last November 2015 in the East Asian Summit. The activities conducted under the TA have</p>			

highlighted the role ADB in the malaria elimination agenda. Project outcome was met with the increasing awareness of the malaria elimination agenda, including the need for sustained financing of the said agenda, by the media, the private sector and other stakeholders brought about the events supported by the TA. The TA supported the following activities:

(i) Yangon Malaria Elimination–Regional Global Fund, Government, ADB and partner meetings: An awareness raising event was held on 29 September 2015 by APLMA in partnership with The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Global Business Coalition (GBC) Health, Myanmar Health and Development Consortium and Roll Back Malaria. The event mobilized private sector in the region to support malaria control awareness through partnerships, workplace and community initiatives. The event also supported the objectives of the World Health Organization’s Emergency Response to Artemisinin Resistance and the Global Fund’s Regional Artemisinin Initiative in the Mekong Region. The forum provided the platform for APLMA advocacy support, and an opportunity for ADB to discuss potential future communicable disease and health security financing options

(ii) Senior Expert Consultation on Malaria and Health Financing Mobilization: The Senior Expert Consultation on Resource Mobilization for Malaria and Health Security on 6-7 July 2015 was held at ADB HQ to: (1) allow experts to review innovative financing for health; (2) review challenges to scale up health investment in the ADB including raising awareness of malaria elimination; (3) propose recommendations for health and malaria investments. The overarching message that arose from the experts was “to explore and leverage options to mobilize health and development financing within ADB and other potential funders”. The three core sub-thematic areas of recommendations included: (1) Develop feasible innovative financing mechanisms for health to scale up investment; (2) Support the ability of governments to leverage ADB regional departments, ADB PSOD, ADB PPP, Donors and other partners for health financing; (3) Leverage the Private sector, Philanthropic and Venture capital as a source of health financing. Specific recommendations included the earmarking TA funding specifically for health from the Asian Development Fund (ADF), developing innovative health financing products within ADB and collaborate with key external partners to implement and risk share; and Increasing Government’s domestic budgets for health.

(iii) Government and Private Health provider joint learning program: A joint learning event on government and private health sector engagement was held from 3-7 November 2015 in Manila for 70 participants from 6 DMCs. The event brought together experience and analysis from Asia to guide those involved in policy setting and implementation of health programs related to malaria elimination and universal coverage in a number of countries in Asia understand ways and approaches in utilizing the private sector. Resource persons coming from AIM and other Asian academic centers of excellence comprising the Asia Network for Capacity Building in Health Systems Strengthening (ANHSS) including the CUHK and CUT discussed the various modalities of engaging the private sector. Those who attended the learning event acknowledged that the event raised awareness as to role of the private sector in contributing to universal health coverage, regional health security and malaria elimination. Finally, it highlighted the role of APLMA and ADB in both malaria elimination and universal health coverage in Asia and the Pacific.

Overall Assessment and Rating Successful. Although only 41.4% of the TA amount was utilized, it achieved the targeted outputs of (i) raising APLMA’s profile and visibility with key stakeholders and (ii) helping increase private and public sector involvement and investment with minimal expenses. The work for support against malaria and other communicable diseases is sustainable as it may be carried on by, other key stakeholders, including APLMA. The commitment made by several countries in Asia and the Pacific to malaria elimination last November 2015 in the East Asia Summit suggest that the project impact will be successful as the commitment includes mobilizing additional financing for malaria elimination.

Major Lessons The wide range of partners including resource persons which the TA effectively and efficiently used in its implementation showed that there is value in partnerships versus traditional consultant contracts in achieving desired outputs. This supports the ongoing development of knowledge partnership agreements which would not be traditional consulting contracts but agreements that would facilitate the use of institutional partnerships and resource persons which the TA efficiently used.

Recommendations and Follow-Up Actions Although the TA awareness raising activities do not provide a direct impact on increased strategic investments, it serves as a foundation for future investments which must be continuously nurtured to establish a sustainable regional financing mechanism for malaria and other communicable diseases and broad range of health system development, and to ensure that malaria elimination and control stay high in the policy agenda of the Asia and the Pacific countries in order to protect gains made in previous years. There is value in inserting awareness raising activities in future ADB health projects. Expanded use of knowledge partnership agreements for health projects similar to this TA is also recommended.

TA = technical assistance.