



ELIMINATION 8

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E8 August e-Newsletter

This newsletter provides updates on efforts towards malaria elimination among the E8 countries. The E8 is a coordinated regional approach towards malaria elimination in southern Africa. For more information, visit www.malariaelimination8.org

Country Activities and Milestones: Enhancing Surveillance

In this edition, we put the spotlight on efforts by E8 countries to improve their national surveillance systems. Strong surveillance, which depends on timely diagnosis, enables the Elimination 8 countries to have precise information about where infections are occurring and what is driving transmission. As malaria cases have dropped, the E8 countries require more sophisticated surveillance systems to provide better intelligence on malaria transmission. This enhanced epidemiological intelligence will be a key driver to successful elimination as it will support malaria programs to trigger appropriate, targeted responses that aim to interrupt transmission. The regional initiative is also drawing upon national surveillance data to develop regional intelligence and analysis that will support the region's coordinated approach to zero.

Namibia: To achieve Namibia's goal of malaria elimination by 2020, the country has prioritized the establishment of an advanced surveillance system that is capable of reporting case-based information about parasitological diagnosis, case geo-location, and classification. The surveillance system will allow the National Vector-borne Diseases Control Programme (NVDCP) to identify areas where transmission is occurring, better target its efforts, and monitor progress toward its elimination goals. The new surveillance approach will also include the introduction of an electronic rapid case notification system utilizing the District Health Information Software (DHIS2) tracker application, electronic entry of active surveillance and foci investigation data, improved active surveillance protocols, and automated analytic outputs to aid data analysis and response.

South Africa: To enable real-time case notification, South Africa's National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) has developed MalariaConnect, an Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) tool for

health care workers to report malaria cases immediately from any mobile phone, thus enhancing timeliness and completeness of case reporting. MalariaConnect was rolled-out in November 2015 to 300 public health centres from South Africa's five endemic districts. Case reports are sent automatically by SMS and email to malaria program staff for rapid follow up. MalariaConnect has significantly improved timeliness of case notification in South Africa; MalariaConnect cases were reported within 1 day of patient diagnosis, compared to 6 days in the previous paper-based system. Following on this initial success, in 2016 MalariaConnect has been rolled out to facilities in South Africa's four low-endemic districts, and South Africa will focus on strengthening program response to case notifications and building electronic systems to support these processes.





Mozambique: In December 2015, the Mozambique Ministry of Health migrated its malaria reporting system onto the DHIS2 platform. Through the beginning months of 2016, the system was rolled out countrywide and receipt of data at the district level began from May 2016. Challenges of the previous system included difficulty of conducting detailed data analysis because data was previously aggregated at the provincial level. DHIS2 will now allow Mozambique's malaria program to conduct data disaggregation at the district level.

Zimbabwe: Zimbabwe has adopted DHIS2 tracker as a system of choice for case-based surveillance in the 20 districts (out of 63) that are currently implementing malaria pre-elimination and elimination strategies. and the rollout of DHIS2 tracker was completed in the targeted provinces of Midlands, Matabeleland North, Mashonaland West and Matabeleland South. It is anticipated that the tracker system will improve timeliness of case notification and provide a robust solution to electronic case-based surveillance in Zimbabwe's malaria programme.

MOSASWA Global Fund Proposal

Following the submission of a concept note to the Global Fund, MOSASWA (an initiative involving Mozambique, South Africa, and Swaziland) has received initial endorsement from the Global Fund Grants Approvals Committee, and is now in the grant-making stage. Key strategic interventions proposed under this funding proposal include entomological monitoring and vector control in southern Mozambique.

About MOSASWA: In July 2015, the governments of Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland signed the MOSASWA Cross-border Malaria Initiative, reviving their previous collaboration under the banner of the Lubombo Spatial Development Initiative (LSDI). Through MOSASWA, these three governments will aim "to work collaboratively to accelerate from control to pre-elimination in southern Mozambique and accelerate the transition from pre-elimination to elimination of malaria in Swaziland and South-Africa, so as to achieve zero local transmission in Swaziland, South Africa and Maputo province by 2020 and achieve pre-elimination status in southern Mozambique (Gaza and Inhambane Provinces) by 2025". As a sub-set of the E8, MOSASWA aligns with and contributes to the regional elimination strategy implemented through the E8. MOSASWA builds on the larger E8 initiative by implementing a more focused set of interventions, and specifically, extending a zone of sustainable malaria control into Maputo Province, recognizing the potential for lowered transmission in Mozambique to rapidly accelerate progress to zero in South Africa and Swaziland.

2nd South Africa Malaria Research Conference, July 2016

A key objective of the E8 partnership is to facilitate exchange of research and best practices, to bring new tools and operational approaches to country elimination strategies. This year, E8 partnered with the University of Pretoria to co-sponsor the 2nd South African Malaria Research Conference, from the 31st July to 2nd August 2016. This gathering brought together malaria researchers from across the SADC region and other African country participants. This platform presented researchers with an opportunity to share promising new research, as well and to expand the dialogue on malaria elimination, drawing from various discipline areas and expertise. Researchers presented on various topics, with a keen focus on cross-border transmission dynamics, alternative methods and novel interventions for malaria vector control, as well as mathematical modelling approaches for guiding elimination policymaking. [Link](#)

The conference served as a valuable forum for developing a network of people building the evidence base for malaria elimination that will advance the technical and operational strategies in malaria programmes. In his keynote address, Dr. Kamwi, the E8 Ambassador, emphasized the emergence of insecticide resistance and called for research to support introduction of new or alternative vector control tools that are appropriate for the E8 context.



M&E and Surveillance Technical Working Group Meeting, August 2016

The E8 Monitoring and Evaluation, and Surveillance Technical Working Group (TWG), met over three days (3rd August – 5th August 2016), in Johannesburg South Africa, to review data collection tools and implementation of the E8 testing, treatment, and surveillance activities among migrant populations in border areas. The TWG reached consensus on data management and flow, as well as case surveillance methods to be used in the implementation of Global-Fund supported malaria posts. The TWG also provided input into an early prototype of a regional surveillance database; the deliberations of the TWG represent significant progress among the E8 towards harmonising surveillance definitions, and towards data sharing and analysis of region-wide transmission trends.

Upcoming Events

October 25 – 26, 2016 – Technical Working Group:

Vector Control, M&E and Surveillance, Diagnosis and Case Management. Mbabane, Swaziland

October 27 – 28, 2016 – Technical Committee Meeting:

Mbabane, Swaziland

November 2016 – SADC Health Ministers Meeting:

Mbabane, Swaziland

November 2016:

Launch of first cross-border malaria diagnosis and treatment posts