

# Malaria Consortium Myanmar



Malaria Consortium has become one of the world's leading specialist non-profit organisations dedicated to improving the lives of the poor and marginalised in Asia and Africa. Our mission is to deliver sustainable, evidence-based health programmes that combat preventable communicable diseases, including malaria, neglected tropical diseases and childhood illnesses.

Malaria Consortium's initial engagement in Myanmar began during the 2005 Malaria Programme Review where the importance of interim support strategies were emphasised during an absence of longer term funding. In 2011, we worked with the Ministry of Health's Department of Medical Research to conduct the first Artemisinin Resistance Containment baseline survey in Myanmar, which looked at growing resistance to antimalarial drugs. We also provided expertise on malaria prevention and control during the 2012 joint assessment of the response to artemisinin resistance in the region and participated in the initial development of the Global Fund Regional Artemisinin Initiative.

# Malaria Consortium Coverage at May 2014

## Myanmar Artemisinin Resistance Containment project—completed 2011

Tier 1	Tier 2
All Townships in <b>Tanintharyi Region and Mon State</b> ; <b>Shwegyin, Bago (East) Region</b>	All Townships in <b>Kayah and Kayin States</b> ; all remaining Townships, <b>Bago (East) Region; Bhamo, Mansi, Mornauk, Myitkyina Kachin State</b>

Determined a baseline malaria prevalence in containment areas (Tier 1 and 2). Assessed and monitored the availability of oral artemisinin mono-therapies in containment areas. Activities served as a baseline for the MARC strategic M&E framework in 2011

1992 households

## Behavioural Research to Assess Consumer Preferences and Barriers to Use of LLINs in Myanmar

**Maw Taung, Tanintharyi Region; Kale, Sagaing Region; Loikaw, Kayah State**

Explored the preferences of a number of malaria prevention tools in order to understand key barriers to using LLINs among different consumer groups in Myanmar. Conducted a focus group discussion and in-depth interviews with different community groups

Targeted Population – 318 people

## Assessment of Surveillance System and Outbreak Response for Dengue in Myanmar

**Mawlamyine, Thanbyuzayat, Kyaikto, Paung cities. Mon State Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon cities**

In consultation with National Disease Control Programme/ Vector Borne Disease Control, conducted an assessment of current surveillance systems for dengue and provided recommendations to strengthen response systems at national, sub-regional and community levels

## Integrated Vector Management of Dengue (positive deviance)

**Ingapu, Ayeyarwaddy Region**

Tested the positive deviance (PD) approach to increase knowledge, attitude and practice related to dengue in communities at risk. Conducted both a baseline and endline survey, identifying PD and community volunteers to participate in the community health education activities

Population Coverage – 134 villages (71,000 people)

## Rapid Coverage Assessment on LLINs in Kayin State

**Hpa-An, Hlaingbwe, Kawkareik, Myawaddy, Kayin State**

Following the distribution of long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs), activities aim to measure the effectiveness of the campaign, estimating net coverage, overall ownership and use in targeted areas. Activities will also compare coverage in townships receiving LLINs in Phase 1 (Hpa-An, Hlaingbwe, and Kawkareik) to those in Phase 2 (Myawaddy). Undertake quantitative research on the LLIN coverage in Kayin State

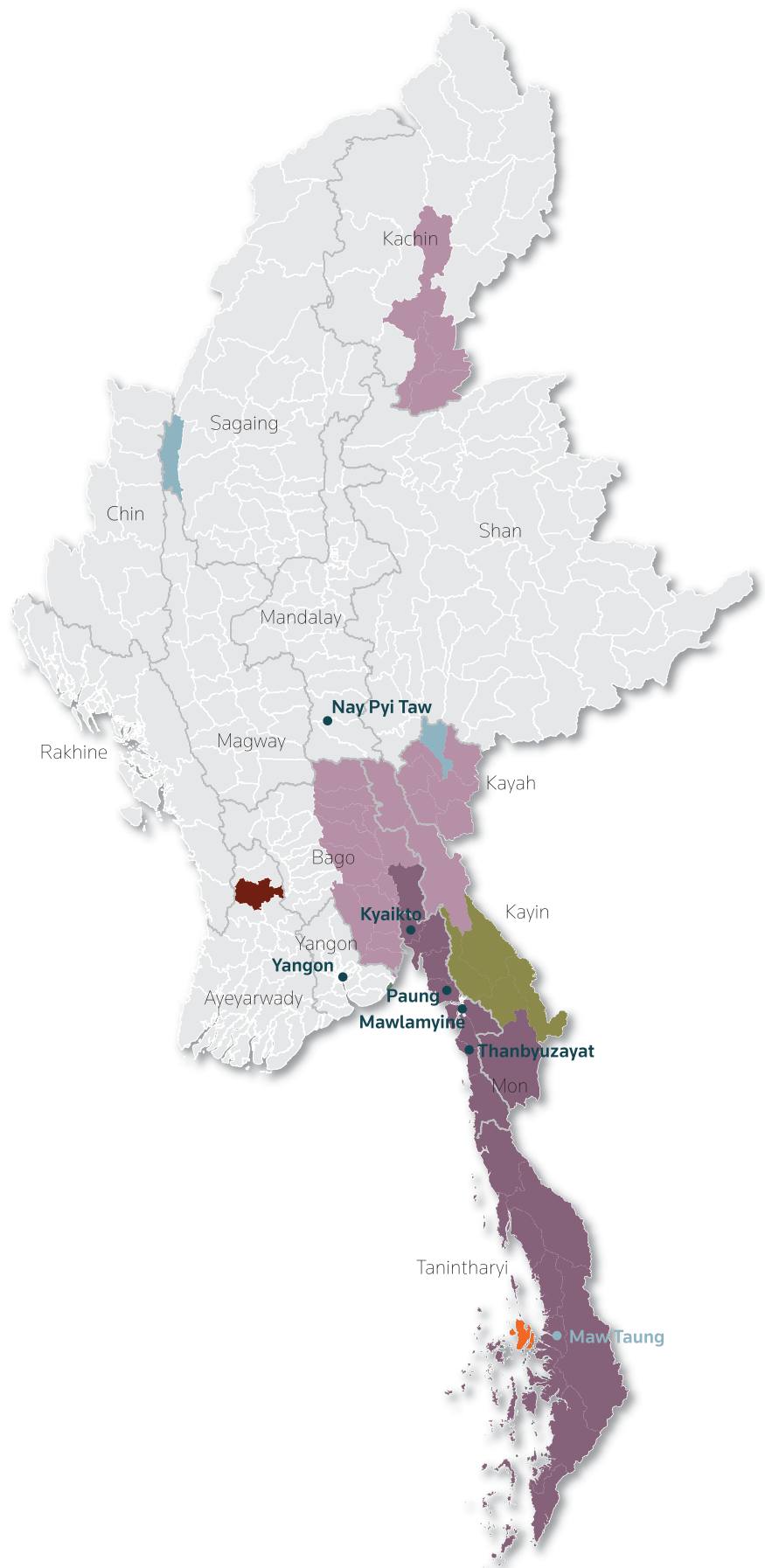
Population Coverage – 134 villages (71,000 people)

## Positive Deviance Project

**Kyun Su, Tanintharyi Region**

Tested 'positive deviance' as an approach to increase knowledge, attitudes and practice related to malaria in high-risk communities. Conducted a baseline survey, identified positive deviance and community volunteers to participate in activities, conducted an endline survey. Conducted a baseline survey, identified PD and community volunteers to participate in activities, and conducted an endline survey

Targeted population – 500 households  
Total population – 3,206 households



## Innovative Malaria Monitoring and Evaluation, Research and Surveillance towards Elimination (IMMERSE)

September 2013 – August 2018

### United States Government Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Working with partner organisations and ministries of health in the Greater Mekong Subregion (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and Yunnan Province in China), the project is developing a shared set of tools and evidence base focusing on drug resistance, malaria diagnosis and treatment, and for operational research. We are supporting the implementation of health worker training, behaviour change communication, and the development of strategic, evidence-based planning and policy. The project includes components to develop M&E and surveillance tools, the use of data for on-the-ground action as well as operational research on active malaria case detection and response focusing on remote and vulnerable populations.



## Drug Resistance Management in Myanmar

April 2012 – April 2014

### UK Department for International Development (DFID/UKaid)

This project supported the Myanmar Vector Borne Disease Control Programme to develop and refine strategies for artemisinin resistance containment. As part of this support, we implemented a behaviour change communications pilot using the 'positive deviance' approach, consolidating lessons learned in other containment programmes, with a focus on strengthening surveillance and health management information systems.



*Top Left: A patient is tested for malaria at a health clinic Photo: Mimi Mollica . Top Right: Taking blood samples to test for malaria  
Bottom left: Community members demonstrate a 'village malaria map' to record malaria cases and houses visited  
Bottom right: A village health meeting in Kyunsu Township*



## Regional Integrated Vector Management in Myanmar and Cambodia

April 2012 – July 2014

### UK Department for International Development (DFID/UKaid)

Under this project, Malaria Consortium focused on carrying out surveillance for the dengue, categorised internationally as a neglected tropical disease and yet a growing concern in the region. The purpose was to assess and strengthen the ability of health systems and the community to prevent the spread of vector-borne diseases more effectively by improving recognition of cases and outbreaks. Our activities included delivering behaviour change campaigns at the community level and improving surveillance capacities.

## NetWorks (Asia)

October 2011 – September 2014

### Johns Hopkins University Center for Communications Programs (as a sub-award from USAID)

In Myanmar, Thailand, and Cambodia, NetWorks has supported activities including an assessment to help countries update and rationalise national strategies for vector control, particularly in the use of long lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) as well as other insecticide-treated materials and repellents. Malaria Consortium's activities include behavioural research to understand consumer preferences and barriers to use of LLINs in Myanmar, rapid coverage monitoring of net distribution, qualitative assessment of personal protection measures and behaviours among at-risk populations.



## Malaria Artemisinin Resistance Containment Baseline Survey

December 2011 – December 2012

### Ministry of Health's Department of Medical Research, funded by the World Health Organization and the Three Diseases Fund

In 2011, Malaria Consortium conducted the first Malaria Artemisinin Resistance Containment baseline survey in Myanmar, in cooperation with the the Ministry of Health. This involved a large-scale survey of households, drug outlets and health facilities, and addressed indicators for the containment of artemisinin resistance. The survey provided key monitoring and evaluation data for the refinement and improvement of the containment strategy, and assessed the overall malaria prevalence in the containment areas of known and suspected artemisinin resistance. The findings contributed to a number of other project baselines including those implemented through the Global Fund.

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*Left: A family demonstrates proper net use . Right: A mother and her child sleep under a long lasting insecticidal net*

In 2013, Malaria Consortium was invited to establish a permanent presence in the country, providing technical assistance for malaria control and in particular through monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities. We were appointed to join the national Malaria Technical Strategic Group (TSG), which serves as the forum for technical matters and, as necessary, provides national level inputs and support. Malaria Consortium is also a member of the M&E technical group for malaria chaired by the Ministry of Health.

Malaria Consortium has provided guidance to the Asian Collaborative Training Network for Malaria (ACTMalaria) since it was founded in 1996, including support for curriculum development, institutional development and teaching in a range of areas.

### Projects in Myanmar

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Malaria Consortium's support and implementation activities in Myanmar will focus on the following key areas:

- » Surveillance, monitoring and evaluation
- » Disease prevention and treatment
- » Drug and insecticide resistance management
- » Health systems strengthening and quality of services
- » Operational research
- » Malaria elimination

### Malaria Consortium in Southeast Asia

Malaria Consortium began working in Southeast Asia in 2003, setting up a regional office at Bangkok's Mahidol University. We have since expanded our presence in the region to a total of six offices in three countries, including Thailand (Chiang Mai), Cambodia (Phnom Penh, Ratanakiri, Pailin) and Myanmar (Yangon). Malaria Consortium Asia maintains a strong and productive partnership with Mahidol University and other academic institutions in the region on a wide range of joint initiatives.

Malaria Consortium's programmes in the region have focused on the provision of technical assistance to strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems, surveillance systems, and support efforts to control an emerging resistance to artemisinin – particularly among mobile and migrant populations. We have a strong record of delivering successful projects for the Global Fund and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention across the region. Our reputation in Asia as a provider of specialised technical assistance in malaria M&E is underpinned by a strong track record of operational experience as both an implementing agency as well as through our support to multiple government and international organisations to design and optimise their malaria programmes in Asia and across Africa.



*Children outside the building where monthly health meetings are held*



*Mon Mon San, a volunteer for the positive deviance pilot project, also runs a shop in Pyin Htet Auu village*

## Programme administration

Malaria Consortium's technical and project implementation staff are supported by a robust programme management infrastructure.

Regional programme management oversight is provided by Henry Braun, Malaria Consortium's Asia Programmes Director. Henry has over 13 years experience in senior programme management roles, including as Country Director and Regional Director for CARE International and Save the Children in Asia. Henry has a proven track record in leading large-scale implementation programmes in the region.

At country level the teams are headed by a country representative who is responsible for the quality assurance of projects. Our Myanmar Country Representative, Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, has over 15 years of project management experience during her time working for a range of international organisations, including United Nations Office for Project Services and the United Nations Development Program in Myanmar, Laos and New York. Yasmin has a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard University and a Masters in Media Ecology and Film from New York University.

## Financial support and management

Some of the key supporters of our work include the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, DFID/UKaid, USAID/President's Malaria Initiative, the World Health Organization, the Canadian International Development Agency (now the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development), Irish Aid, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and of course national governments in all countries where we work.

Malaria Consortium has a strong financial management function with extensive experience of managing large and complex grants and contracts for a variety of government, insitutional and private sector donors. Our global finance team is based in the UK and supported by a regional finance team in Bangkok with country based finance staff to ensure overall organisational efficiency and provide value for money. Our most up to date financial reports can be found on our website: <http://www.malariaconsortium.org/pages/annual-reviews.htm>