

Annex 12B. Regional Initiatives to Eliminate Malaria

Supplemental material for: Shretta, R., J. Liu, C. Cotter, J. Cohen, C. Dolenz and others. 2017. "Malaria Elimination and Eradication." In *Disease Control Priorities* (third edition). Volume 6, *Major Infectious Diseases*. Edited by K.K. Holmes, S. Bertozzi, B.R. Bloom, and P. Jha. Washington, DC: World Bank.

Regional initiatives are garnering support among donors and countries because malaria elimination is a public good. Regional mechanisms can leverage financing from a range of sources and be used to target activities that are best organized and delivered on a regional basis (for example, cross-border surveillance, pooled procurement, tool development). Several regional initiatives have been formalized:

- The WHO, Regional Office for Europe initiative was formalized in 2005 under the Tashkent Declaration. Six of the nine signatory countries—Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan—have interrupted local transmission for at least three years.
- The Malaria-Free Arabian Peninsula initiative focused on the two peninsular countries with continued transmission—Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Yemen—and prioritized cross-border coordination of surveillance and vector control. Saudi Arabia reported only 34 local cases in 2013.
- The Asia-Pacific Malaria Elimination Network was launched in 2009 as a network of countries, institutions, and stakeholders working together to eliminate malaria by facilitating collaboration and knowledge sharing, conducting training and research, and increasing program capacity. The network consists of 17 countries, adding India in March 2015.
- The Asia-Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance is an affiliation of 22 heads of government formed in 2013 to accelerate progress toward regional elimination. Regional leaders endorsed the goal of a malaria-free Asia-Pacific by 2030 in 2014 and a strategic roadmap in 2015, emphasizing evidence-based responses to artemisinin and insecticide resistance, support for vulnerable groups, and innovative financing streams.
- The WHO Strategy for Malaria Elimination in the Greater Mekong Subregion outlines a phased approach, with the goal of eliminating *P. falciparum* transmission in all six countries by 2025 and all forms of malaria by 2030. These efforts are supported, in part, by the Regional Artemisinin Initiative grant from the Global Fund, which allocated US\$100 million over three years to halt the spread of artemisinin resistance.
- To eliminate malaria in southern Africa by 2010, the Elimination 8 prioritizes cross-country data sharing among Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, and Swaziland and their northern neighbors, Angola and Mozambique.

- Two regional initiatives in West Africa—the Malaria Elimination Initiative of the Economic Community of West African States and the Sahel Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases Project—are bringing neighboring countries together for malaria elimination, but time-limited goals have not yet been stated.
- The African Leaders Malaria Alliance—a high-level coalition of 49 African heads of government — recently adopted malaria elimination by 2030, which has been further endorsed by the African Union.
- The Elimination of Malaria in Mesoamerica and Hispaniola was formed in 2013 to eliminate malaria by 2020 in Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, and Honduras. It receives support through a performance-based, cash-on-delivery grant from the Global Fund. Additional assistance comes from a new consortium—Malaria Zero—that is helping the Dominican Republic and Haiti to implement a collaborative strategy for elimination by 2020.