



**AGREEMENT BETWEEN**

**THE U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**AND**

**THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**

**Neglected Tropical Diseases Work Plan**

**FY 2011**

(Edited for website)

## **BACKGROUND**

USAID works in partnership with host country governments, bilateral and multilateral organizations, non-governmental and faith-based organizations, private foundations, and organizations that share its goals. The World Health Organization, one of USAID's oldest partners, is a major scientific and technical resource in the areas of strategy and program development, operational research, training, monitoring, and implementation of child health, HIV/AIDS, and infectious disease activities. The purpose of this agreement is to implement activities designed to improve health through the development and delivery of low-cost, high impact interventions that can reach children and adults in poor countries.

## **ACTIVITIES**

**Title Activity 1:** Planning an international training course for national NTD programme managers, coordinators and regional network of experts

**Country or Region:** Global

### **Background**

With the gradual scaling up of integrated, large scale preventive chemotherapy programmes, piloted mainly by the US-led Global Health Initiative, there is an urgent need to build managerial capacity among regular mid-level health managers in endemic countries to run implementation programmes. With time, this will create a critical mass of expertise that will be routinely available to sustain preventive chemotherapy programmes for as long as needed.

### **Objective**

- To provide participants with a fundamental understanding of the challenges, constraints and benefits of integrated programmes for the control of co-endemic NTDs at national and district levels. This training course will focus both on theory and managerial practice to implement large scale preventive chemotherapy programmes according to WHO standards and guidelines.

### **Activities**

#### **In collaboration with USAID and its implementing partners:**

- Finalize the development of a training manual to be used for an international NTD programme managers training course;
- Organize training course that will develop the capacity to design, organize, implement and monitor NTD programmes in compliance with WHO standards and guidelines

### **Outcomes/Results**

- Available set of standardized training materials for implementation of NTD programmes.
- Improved expertise at the country level to plan, implement and monitor NTD programmes
- Network of regional expertise available for intercountry support to the planning, implementation and monitoring of NTD programmes

**Title Activity 2:** Strengthening national and regional capacities for integrated preventive chemotherapy, including chronic care, surgery and hygiene

**Country or Region:** Global

### **Background**

WHO and USAID have jointly developed a "roll out package" for the implementation of integrated preventive chemotherapy programmes. This roll out package includes 5 components: (1) a thorough situation analysis; (2)

preparation of a national Plan of Action (including plans to complete mapping of all 7 target NTDs) resulting in budgeted 5-yr strategic plans; (3) national stakeholders meeting of various levels of MoH, and other Ministries for national consensus building around the Plan of Action; (4) detailed budgeting with the Financial Gap Analysis Tool; (5) national partners meeting to mobilize and harmonize financial and technical support among partners (internal and external). This component aims at strengthening regional capacity to guide and support national authorities of endemic countries to roll out the implementation of integrated preventive chemotherapy programmes, including additional components such as chronic care, surgery and hygiene, and assist in mobilizing multi-source resources to this purpose.

### **Objectives**

- To build in-country capacity with disease-specific managers to roll out the implementation of preventive chemotherapy and morbidity management and hygiene
- To build regional/subregional capacity to steer and support in-country processes, including M&E of ongoing interventions

### **Main activities**

- Continue support to countries with ongoing disease control programmes
- Support at least 15 additional countries (of which at least 10 are countries in Africa) to complete their situation analysis and 5 year national action plans for preventive chemotherapy. Specific allocation by region/country will be agreed upon between WHO and USAID by October 2011.
- Facilitate in-country consensus and partners' meetings
- In collaboration with USAID, strategically position WHO National Programme Officers in high burden and fragile countries (Terms of reference to be discussed with USAID and relevant WHO Regional Offices)
- To strengthen the WHO/AFRO intercountry structure for supporting the network of regional expertise
- Support implementation of integrated health initiatives in different sectors (family, health and education systems) in order to improve individual hygiene, chronic care and surgical management of complicated cases.

### **Outcomes/Results**

- Comprehensive strategic plans, available in-country expertise and regional capacity for intercountry support of implementation of integrated programmes
- Improved programme implementation, scaling up and timely reporting of coverage.
- Strengthened collaboration among NTD partners and coherence in the support provided to countries
- Enhanced morbidity management of NTDs, as part of comprehensive, health systems based initiatives, with improved intersectoral collaboration to sustain the achievements of NTDs as appropriate

**Title Activity 3:** Building a global monitoring and evaluation system and a web-enabled information platform for preventive chemotherapy

**Country or Region:** Global

### **Background**

With the gradual scaling up of integrated, large scale preventive chemotherapy programmes, there is also an urgent need to set clear standards for routine M&E of country based interventions. Also, it is important to have an accurate view on progress achieved year-by-year in terms of coverage of risk populations and periodically measure disease-specific impact as well as the more global impact on health and well-being that can be attributed to the interventions. This includes the setting up of appropriate and effective national data collection and flow systems, the aggregation of data into regional and global data and progress reports and making this information available in the public domain through a web-enabled information platform.

### **Objectives**

- To maintain and expand a web-enabled information platform for preventive chemotherapy, including epidemiological data, country plans of action, progress reports, drug forecasting and orders/use, interventions required, resource mapping and budgetary information.

- To coordinate and steer the Working Group on monitoring and evaluation of preventive chemotherapy
- To agree, with USAID and its implementing NTD partners, on a framework for impact assessment of ongoing large scale preventive chemotherapy programmes
- To strengthen national systems for surveillance and monitoring of progress in implementation of preventive chemotherapy

#### **Main activities**

- Update the web-enabled database of national and sub-national information, routinely reported NTD coverage, impact data, morbidity control data (notably for lymphatic filariasis and trachoma), programme policies, and budgeting and other financial information using information from all available (verified) sources.
- Improve data visualization and accessibility options offered on WHO web pages (downloadable report, ready-made spreadsheets of data, customized queries and maps).
- Develop a standardized matrix for implementing objective PCT data quality assessments in national control programme.
- Review developments in information management and explore their broader application in improving preventive chemotherapy data management at all levels.
- Expand the use of sentinel surveillance systems for monitoring progress and impact of preventive chemotherapy.
- Support evaluations and technical reviews of national NTD control programmes.
- To evaluate and quantify the impact of preventive chemotherapy globally, by region, and in selected countries
- To support the Task Force on Impact Evaluation

#### **Outcomes/Results**

- Coordination meeting of Working Group on monitoring and evaluation of preventive chemotherapy, and the derivatives of the sub-working groups on national control programme needs, disease-specific indicators and measuring enhanced outcomes and impact.
- Technical meeting of preventive chemotherapy data managers from WHO regional levels and partners agencies supporting national NTD control programmes to implement preventive chemotherapy.
- Up-to-date preventive chemotherapy data including routinely reported NTD coverage, impact data, morbidity control data, surveillance data, budgeting and financial information.
- Standardized preventive chemotherapy data quality assessment protocol used during national programme evaluations and technical reviews.
- Improved preventive chemotherapy data dissemination tools with increased information accessibility options for partners, national authorities and other NTD control stakeholders.
- Evidence-based methodologies for measuring impact of PC.

**Title Activity 4:** Supporting coordinated procurement of NTDs medicines of assured quality through the Working Group on Access to Quality-assured Medicines for NTDs (WGA)

**Country or Region:** Global

#### **Background**

The NTD WGA is a flexible organisational structure established by the WHO Strategic and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) on NTDs in 2009 and administered by WHO. WGA is a voluntary grouping of governments, organisations, institutions, agencies and associations from developing and developed countries aimed at sharing expertise, identifying problems, seeking solutions, coordinating activities and working towards the common goal of facilitating access to assured-quality, essential medicines for NTDs. In this context, the specific role of WHO secretariat is to (a) coordinate the organization of the meetings of the WGA; (b) organise a central repository of information and documents relevant to the WGA; (c) maintain a database of participants' activities which are completed, ongoing, or planned; (d) inform the participants of activities, ongoing, or planned; (e) prepare and distribute draft agendas, meeting reports, progress reports, and overviews of implementation. WGA documents and other output will be issued by WHO and will be disseminated with appropriate disclaimers, including that the

content does not necessarily reflect the views or stated policy of the participating organizations, agencies and institutions.

### **Objectives**

- To continue market intelligence research on albendazole, DEC, mebendazole and praziquantel to enhance the chances that only assured-quality medicines are procured for expanded preventive treatment programmes;
- To increase involvement of national authorities and strengthen national capacity to support expansion of NTD preventive chemotherapy interventions;
- To enhance coordinated procurement, overcome supply chain bottlenecks, and strengthen country ownership of NTD programmes.

### **Main Activities**

- Collect and disseminate market and regulatory information about active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) and finished pharmaceutical products of albendazole, DEC, mebendazole and praziquantel. This is done through ad hoc questionnaires, surveys, and direct contacts with manufacturers and procurement agencies;
- provide guidance materials and training to assist national authorities in the assessment and monitoring of the quality and safety of NTD medicines; This is done through development of ad hoc guidance materials and training/discussion initiatives;
- organize regular information exchange and meetings among stakeholders involved in manufacture, procurement and distribution of NTD medicines; this is done directly through the Working Group on Access to Quality-assured Medicines for NTDs and ad hoc initiatives such as focused meetings.

### **Outcomes/Results**

- Data collection and dissemination tools including information on availability, prices, sources, purchase/shipment conditions for albendazole, DEC, and praziquantel;
- Coordination meetings with manufacturers and other stakeholders to develop and sustain effective information exchange aimed at: a) ensuring reliable forecasting of medicines and API requirements and production capacity, b) identifying and proposing solutions for possible problems that may hinder availability of APIs and/or finished drug products;
- Preliminary guidance materials to assist national drug regulatory authorities that may require support for the assessment of drugs for NTDs and for assuring safety of NTD interventions;
- Guidance to sampling and actual collection, testing and provision of results to concerned parties, of a number of samples of NTD medicines ensuring adequate presence of both purchased and donated drugs.

To achieve these outcomes, WHO collaborates with organizations that support national NTD control programmes (e.g., CDC, GAELF, SCI, USAID and its implementation partners, DFID, SCI, GNNTDC).

**Title Activity 5:** NTD surveillance support via the Integrated Management of Adolescent and Adult Illness (IMAI) District Clinician Manual and training on clinical role in reporting - further field testing, finalization, publication, printing and dissemination support

**Country or Region:** Global

### **Background**

- TB-HIV funding from USAID has been the main source for the development and early implementation of the IMAI approach and toolkit which has now been adapted and used to support HIV services integrated within primary health care in resource-poor settings in more than 50 countries globally. The IMAI strategy and toolkit (with Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) and Integrated Management of Pregnancy and Childbirth (IMPAC)) support an integrated approach to primary health care and health system strengthening, based on both clinical and management/logistics input to strengthen the district network (district hospital, health centres and community-based delivery of care. It is not feasible to use TB- HIV-specific funding in the coming year for the specific NTD components of these activities.
- From the beginning of the first-level IMAI work, following IMCI and IMPAC, there has been consistent attention to common NTDs. During country adaptation, management of leishmaniasis, borreliosis and other

NTDs have been added. A clear need for referral for further assessment, differential diagnosis and treatment at district hospital level has been identified. The draft IMAI District Clinician Manual and second level learning programme are vehicles for efficient support for multiple interventions relevant to NTDs. NTDs can be complicated with a multi-system presentation requiring well-prepared and updated district clinicians whose clinical reasoning is supported by differential diagnosis tables and ability to function with limited lab support) and with simplified treatment protocols. This support for diagnosis also forms a base for health facility-based reporting of NTD and other notifiable diseases.

- Throughout the manual, notifiable diseases are marked with a trumpet. A chapter is included on patient monitoring and reporting which has drawn from the 2010 IDSR guidelines, linking the notifiable NTDs with the chapters in the manual. The Department NTD has been inputting into the draft IMAI district clinician manual over the last 2 years.

### **Objective**

- To contribute to NTD surveillance through finalization and dissemination of the IMAI District Clinician Manual and specific training within the second level learning programme on notifiable diseases.

### **Main Activities**

- Finalize NTD sections of the IMAI District Clinician Manual
- Develop a short module to add to the accompanying clinical training materials to prepare the clinician for their role in reporting and management of NTDs in clinical settings.
- Disseminate through regional offices, partners, IMAI-IMCI collaborating institutions.

### **Outcomes/Results**

- Finalized NTD surveillance within IMAI District Clinician Manual and short training course