

Roundtable 1 of 3: Protecting displaced populations from vector-borne diseases through multisectoral collaboration
6 September 2022, Washington, DC

Summary

Objective: Discuss how greater cross-sectoral collaboration can and should generate new financial resources, bolster operational support for high burden malaria countries, and extend malaria and other vector control programmes to migrant and displaced populations who reside in complex operating environments (COEs) and settings with humanitarian needs.

- The meeting convened representatives from ALMA, Global Fund, IFRC, IOM, MSF, RBM, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR, BHA, US-PMI and WHO
- Multisectoral representation, i.e. WASH, Shelter and Health clusters, vector control and emergency response

The principal issues

- Mechanisms required to meet the diverse needs of displaced people, whose number is expected to rise above the current estimate of 100 million (as at first half of 2022). There is a need to strengthen integrated service delivery, procurement and the distribution of commodities.
- Low quality and poor continuity of services in COE. Health of displaced and host populations at risk due to re-emerging diseases, poor physical housing, poorly managed water and waste, limited access to routine vaccinations and to vector control. High turnover of community health workers, partly through inability to sustain remuneration in a multi-year grant period.
- Data sharing across sectors is poor. Disaggregated IDP and refugee data are rare.
- Tracking the flow of resources, including for vector control, in humanitarian and conflict settings is complex.
- Re-programming funds mid-grant cycle can be difficult.

Recommendations for stakeholders

Recommendation	Funding partner	Operational partner	Country programme	Private sector	Academia and research
Develop a series of recommendations to present to WASH and Shelter clusters to make a case for more frequent and deeper collaboration with vector control programmes.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Facilitate and encourage the exchange of disease data across sectors so that WASH and Shelter partners are keenly aware of the impact of their programmes and services on malaria incidence and endemicity.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Engage more humanitarian and development partners in the climate sector in dialogues about the connection between deforestation, land destruction,	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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food insecurity, agriculture, severe weather and changing environmental zones and how these are tied to malaria in COEs and humanitarian crises.					
Develop an intersectoral plan with global nutrition partners.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prioritize the development of malaria case studies.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Engage with the WASH cluster concerning a new strategic focus on expanding collaboration with health and vector control partners.		✓	✓	✓	✓
Engage with the Immunization Agenda (IA) 2030 Working Group on Zero Dose Children to identify areas of overlap.	✓	✓	✓		
Ensure vector control and malaria services are included in humanitarian funding appeals.	✓	✓	✓		

Next steps

- Produce a meeting report with targeted outcomes, next steps and action items for partners.
- Capitalize on the launch of the new Global Fund grant cycle and other funding opportunities to connect national partners with donors and include tailored vector control activities for displaced persons in country funding applications and national plans.
- Identify and plan for opportunities in coming years to continue this conversation and engage new and old partners from academia, the private sector, other disease areas, other sectors, and country malaria partners and national malaria programmes.
- Encourage the continued development and dissemination of supporting materials (manuals, case studies, analyses and scorecards) in collaboration with countries and implementing partners to allow progress to be tracked over time.