

Roundtable 3 of 3: Addressing malaria in displaced and last mile populations through improved tools and innovations
8 February 2023 – Accra, Ghana

Summary

Objective: Engage private sector partners, academia and others in conversation about the current and future control tools that are necessary to support malaria prevention and control efforts in complex operating environments (COE) for refugee and displaced populations.

The meeting convened representatives from the national malaria programmes of Burkina Faso, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Uganda, BASF SE, Global Fund, Ifakara Health Institute, IVCC, JHUCCP, JHU, LSHTM, MSH, PMI Vector Link, PSI, SC Johnson, Swiss TPH, US-PMI, Valent Biosciences, Vestergaard and the WHO PQ Unit.

Key issues

- There is a lack of policy and guidance on the use of new tools in emergency situations. Any guidance developed needs to be flexible to respond to different contexts.
- A large proportion of refugees and IDPs live in urban camps rather than in classic IDP camps. Appropriate tools are required in these settings.
- New types of nets (e.g. dual AI) have had good results, but more study is needed.
- Multisectoral engagement and collaboration are required, e.g. WASH and Shelter partners are needed to control vector-borne diseases in humanitarian settings and emergencies. Existing community structures should be used as far as possible.
- Targeted messaging through appropriate communication channels is needed to minimize fear among IDPs.

Recommendations

Recommendation	Funding partner	Operational partner	Country programme	Private sector	Academia and research
There is a need to better understand the vector control needs of displaced populations.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Local community actors should be included in decision-making concerning improved access to and use of novel tools.		✓	✓	✓	✓
Novel tools are needed to help address malaria and vector-borne disease control, and specifically prevention, within IDP and refugee contexts.		✓	✓	✓	✓
Pre-planning is needed for effective research, monitoring and evaluation for ways to improve vector control strategies targeting refugee and displaced populations.		✓	✓	✓	✓
Improved financing through donor or domestic resources is needed to address the lack of vector	✓		✓	✓	

control in packages provided to refugee and displaced populations.					
Ministries of health and national malaria programmes should develop malaria emergency action plans.	✓		✓		

Next steps

- Share results and impact of malaria interventions with refugees, IDPs, etc. to help encourage their feedback and engage in conversation about the impact of the specific interventions/activities.
- Advocate to include representatives of refugees, IDPs and other displaced/marginalized populations in Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanisms. Advocate for inclusion of humanitarian health partners and/or refugee/IDP experts who are familiar with health programme delivery for refugees, IDPs, etc. on the Global Fund Technical Review Panel (TRP). Similarly, engage with the Global Fund’s COE team to set up a briefing for the new TRP members.
- Given the clear need for more implementation research on existing and new vector control tools in humanitarian settings, there is a need to map what different partners can undertake and fund this research (especially for those that are not pre-approved).
- Develop more tailored vector control guidance for WASH and Shelter partners that could help inform the commodities they deploy in the early phase of an emergency. [*Priority*]
- Differentiate what vector control tools are needed and are more appropriate to fit the needs of refugees vs. IDPs vs. other migrant populations in a variety of different settings.
- Develop a reference framework that helps clarify some of the gaps that remain in guidance and distils what options are available for partners that are seeking to extend vector control and malaria prevention activities to displaced populations.
- Continue discussions with private sector and donors about the pre-positioning and buffering of certain commodities that could be accessed in emergency situations.
- Determine how to track the flows and impact of humanitarian funding on malaria prevention and control in humanitarian emergencies.