

Purpose

The Access to Quality Medicines and other Technologies Taskforce (AQMTF) will advise the Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA) on options for improving the availability of, and access to, quality medicines, diagnostics and other products to assist in, by 2015:

1. containing artemisinin resistant strains of malaria; and
2. reducing by 75 per cent from 2000 levels the number of malaria cases and deaths in the region.

Approach

The AQMTF will examine arrangements in the region for the regulation, production, procurement and distribution of medicines, diagnostics, mosquito nets, insecticides and other products used in the control and management of malaria ('malaria control products') and develop options for:

1. ensuring the use of best-practice evidence-based therapies, consistent with international standards, and halting the use of oral mono-therapies and medicines that do not meet international standards;
2. strengthening national regulatory capacity in malaria-affected countries including through regional collaboration on standards and regulatory practices;
3. enhancing access to and affordability of quality medicines, diagnostics and other malaria control products, including options for increasing production, improving quality of manufacturing, possible incentives for private sector producers and/or improving distribution where appropriate; and
4. improving and/or increasing the use of preventive measures, including nets and insecticides.

The AQMTF will collaborate with, and build on the work of, existing global and regional organisations and networks involved in malaria control and management to avoid duplication and accelerate progress.

Membership

The AQMTF will be co-chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Health, Australia, and the Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India.

The AQMTF will comprise senior policy officials and experts from regional countries with influence and interest in improving access to high quality medicines, diagnostics and other products, together with representatives of international organisations and non-governmental organisations with interest and expertise in malaria control, including the World Health Organization (WHO). Membership will be by invitation issued by the co-chairs in consultation with the WHO Director-General and the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for Financing the Health MDGs and for Malaria.

The AQMTF will consult with civil society and with malaria control product manufacturers, including in the private sector, as appropriate.

Meetings and reporting

Meetings will be convened by the co-chairs, with Secretariat support to be provided by the Asian Development Bank.

The AQMTF will present its findings to APLMA leaders by August 2014.