



# Roll Back Malaria

## Mekong IEC Project News

May 2003

We would like to thank our friends for their support and suggestions to improve the Mekong RBM IEC Project News. We hope that this MK RBM IEC project news will bring you up to date with the project implementation and provide some useful information on malaria and IEC for development.

Situation and Stakeholder Analysis is one of the first activities for each country team, to identify target ethnic groups, lessons learned, and partners to work with. Each country has started to conduct the analysis by reviewing the malaria situation, reviewing existing project reports and documents, meeting with malaria staff at provincial and district levels, and discussing with different malaria project partners.

Mr. Un Bunphoeun, the IEC specialist and counterpart at the National Centre for Malaria Control in Cambodia IEC focal person, made an initial visit to Rattanakiri and Mondokiri provinces where malaria prevalence still high among ethnic groups, to discuss the malaria situation with provincial and district malaria staff and organizations working in health promotion and malaria prevention. There are a few NGOs like Health Unlimited, International Cooperation for Cambodia, NOMAD, CRC and PHD working on malaria and health care system development in these provinces. Some of them developed IEC materials to be used by village volunteers in their projects, and some have used materials that were developed by the National Malaria Centre.

Peter Miller, Primary Health Care Specialist in the Lao PDR, started to conduct a situation analysis in collaboration with the Centre for Malariology, Parasitology and Entomology (CMPE). Preliminary findings show that in southern provinces of Lao PDR, malaria prevalence has been high among ethnic groups for the last 2-3 years compared to provinces in other parts of the country. Mr. Miller and CMPE staff identified, Attapeu, the southern province bordering on Rattanakiri province in Cambodia and Kon Tum province in Vietnam for the field visit. Attapeu is one of the 3 provinces that are going to pilot Artemisinin-based Combination Treatment (ACT) under the Global Fund. There are local administrative departments and International Non-Government Organizations working in primary health care that the RBM IEC project can partner with.

In Yunnan, the government restricted movement of staff due to SARS from 25<sup>th</sup> April to 20<sup>th</sup> May. Mr. Xu Jianwei, the national IEC specialist, has started to conduct a situation analysis through reviewing existing documents. The official data shows that among 43 million people there are 26 ethnic groups, most of which are at risk of malaria, especially in the 25 counties along international borders with Myanmar, Lao PDR and Vietnam. More than 60% of reported malaria cases each year are from these areas.



From the official information, Mr. Xu is planning to visit Yuanjiang County located the upper section of the Red River, about 320 km by mountainous road from Simao. It was ranked the highest malaria incidence in China in 1993-1995, and Ximeng County located along the border with Myanmar about 270 km by mountainous road from Simao, where the official malaria incidence ranked the highest in China since 1998. The majority of the people in this county are from the Wa ethnic minority group.

In Thailand, Mr. Trirath Bunjongaksorn, from the Office of Disease Prevention and Control in Chiangmai, is conducting a situation and stakeholder analysis. Malaria prevalence is high among 10 provinces along the border on the west with Myanmar and the eastern border with Cambodia. Primary information shows districts along the border with Myanmar in Maehongson, Tak, Kanchanaburi, Ratchaburi and Ranong provinces have very high malaria incidence. There are both local malaria transmission and imported cases. Maehongson province ranks one of the provinces with the highest malaria incidence in Thailand. In this province, 80% of the total population of 230,000 is at risk of malaria. Malaria remains one of the top 5 diseases among Thai and non-Thai population in Maehongson. There were 5,472 reported malaria cases in 2001, and 3,837 in 2002.

There are a couple of organizations besides the government programme, like International Rescue Committee and Kenan Institute for Asia, working on malaria prevention and control as part of overall primary health care development. There are some printed malaria materials that have been developed by the Vector Borne Disease Bureau and locally developed materials to educate and raise awareness of the target population.



*Picture: Malaria printed materials being used in Maehongsorn province*

Dr. Tran Tuan from the Research and Training Centre for Community Development is cooperating with Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Thuy, national IEC specialist, to conduct a situation analysis. From the information and discussion with National Institute for Malaria, Parasitology and Entomology (NIMPE) and other malaria partners, the RBM IEC project might focus on working with ethnic groups in the central region where the malaria



burden is still high among ethnic groups living and working there. There have been a few organizations working on the malaria control project, for example VTN-EC Malaria Control Project, Medical Committee Netherlands Vietnam Malaria Control Project in central provinces of Vietnam, and other organizations that RBM IEC project can partner with.

*Picture: Project Orientation with Director and technical staff, NIMPE*



There were some suggestions from friends for MK IEC Project News to provide malaria and IEC useful information and news. Therefore we would like to introduce a useful websites for people who work in malaria control programme especially malaria IEC and social mobilization: the “Communication Initiative” health education and communication website established by Warren Feek, a Communication for Development Expert. This website is a partnership of development organizations seeking to support advances in the effectiveness and scale of communication interventions for positive international development.

The URL is [www.comminit.com](http://www.comminit.com). Registration is free and subscribers receive regular news and information update on communication and IEC related issues.

