



MIGRATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL

MISSION IN THAILAND

The Global Fund - Malaria

Artemisinin-based combination therapies, together with the scale-up of effective prevention measures, are revolutionizing malaria control globally. This progress is however threatened by the *Plasmodium falciparum* parasite developing resistance to artemisinin in Southeast Asia.

To eliminate malaria and prevent the spread of resistance within its borders, the Department of Disease Control has partnered with the Global Fund as a principal recipient of the SSF—Malaria Global Fund Grant. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is involved as a sub-recipient and along with the American Refugee Committee (ARC), a sub-sub-recipient, are working together in coordination with the Department of Disease Control to eliminate *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria parasites in Thailand through the project “*Partnership for Containment of Artemisinin Resistance and Moving Towards the Elimination of Plasmodium in Thailand*”.

The project started in 2011 and was successfully completed in 2016. Beneficiaries are primarily migrants and mobile populations living in areas along the Thai-Myanmar and Thai-Cambodian borders spanning several provinces, namely, Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai, Chanthaburi, Chumphon, Kanchanaburi, Mae Hong Son, Petchaburi, Phang Nga, Ranong, Sa Kaeo and Tak.

The project’s goals are part of overarching efforts in reaching targets of the Global Malaria Action Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals. This is being accomplished by strengthening detection systems and responding to all *Plasmodium falciparum* cases, and addressing the urgent need for containment of artemisinin-resistant parasites in Thailand.



Targeted Provinces in Thailand

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Young children with weak immune systems are particularly vulnerable to malaria. Photo: IOM



Target Group

The project targets migrant and mobile populations in 11 border provinces. Many of the estimated 1.2 – 2.4 million unregistered migrants in Thailand live along the Thai-Myanmar and Thai-Cambodian borders. Their mobile lifestyles often preclude the effective use of preventative measures, making them vulnerable to the *Plasmodium falciparum* parasite.

Key Activities

Some of the activities implemented by IOM include:

- 1) Developing a Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) strategy on containment and elimination of malaria, targeting all relevant risk groups;
- 2) Conducting a community mapping exercise to identify migrant communities and households;
- 3) Distributing new long lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLINs) or re-impregnate existing serviceable nets with insecticide in targeted villages;
- 4) Training migrant health volunteers (MHVs) on malaria.

Key Achievements

From October 2011 – December 2016, IOM and ARC implemented the following activities in 11 provinces:

- Distributed 100,480 Long Lasting Insecticide Nets to migrant populations and ethnic minorities in 1765 villages;
- Provided Behavior Change Communication (BCC) capacity development for 97 field staff and 56 Migrant Health Workers;
- Conducted BCC activities that reached over 460,000 migrants in communities, households and workplaces through:
 - Radio broadcasts covering 77 districts;
 - Peer visits to 529 diagnosed *Plasmodium falciparum* positive cases; and
 - Joint “World Malaria Day” yearly campaigns conducted in hotspots identified in targeted provinces.

Principal recipient	Department of Disease Control				
Sub-recipient	Bureau of Vector Borne Diseases	IOM	Raks Thai Foundation	Shoklo Malaria Research Unit	Malaria Consortium
Sub-sub-recipient	BIOPHYSICS, Kenan Foundation Asia, Photiyalaya Institute Mahachulalongkorn Rajavidyalaya University, Office of Disease Prevention and Control, 42 Provincial Health Offices	American Refugee Committee International (ARC)	Foundation for AIDS Right, Stella Maris, Pattanak Organisation	Malteser International, Aide Medical Internationale, Mae Tao Clinic	

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