

RBM VCWG Larval Source Management Work Stream

Work Plan 2020

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A number of countries in Africa have mentioned LSM as one of their interventions of choice in their National Strategic Plans. Although external funders are supposed to be guided by the NSPs we are not aware of any country in Africa that has received money through the traditional vector control funding channels (Global Fund, USAID-PMI) to conduct LSM. However there seems to be more openness and dialog in the funding community to engage on this intervention.

Some countries have managed to source government or bilateral funding for LSM. This could be an opportunity for other funders to support those countries, particularly in monitoring the impact of LSM.

The current WHO position statement on LSM, particularly the “few, fixed, findable” terms seems to have confused the national programs on the best ways to adopt this intervention. It is therefore necessary for the VCWG to deliberately support LSM initiatives in Africa, by providing technical support to countries implementing LSM.

Project 1: Advocating for environmental management including habitat modification and manipulation and inter-sectoral collaboration as priority interventions in LSM

We are aiming to expand our core membership to other sectors particularly public health engineers. We have reached out to the African Development Bank (AfDB) which has published safeguards for health impact assessments including vector control requirements. A representative of AfDB has participated to the workstream meeting and elaborated on the safeguards for health impact assessments. There is room to collaborate with this institution on this area, but further discussions need to take place to firm up practicalities of such a collaboration.

Gaps: So far we have not been able to effectively engage other sectors such as the agriculture, mining, infrastructure building, etc. It would be important to link up with the newly formed Intersectoral working group to advance the topic of environmental management.

Project 2: Innovative approaches to improve LSM –Review of state of the art technology for LSM e.g. GIS, satellite imagery, use of drones for mapping and larviciding, new larvicide-application technology, areal application, etc.

A number of projects are testing the efficacy of using drones for mapping water bodies and/or spraying larvicides (i.e Spatial Intelligence Systems for Precision Larviciding in Zanzibar; Mapping water bodies using drones in Malawi, etc.) . We will follow up the progress in this field and update VCWG and NMCPs accordingly.

Project 3: Reviewing operational LSM in national malaria control programmes – Evidence of impact, training and support needs

WHO-AFRO and the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology, Kenya have initiated three new operational research projects in Botswana, Namibia and Swaziland aiming at assessing whether

adding fortnightly larviciding during the dry season to the standard IRS in those countries will further reduce malaria transmission. Ulrike is providing technical support to the National Malaria Programs and WHO office in those countries to implement the projects.

Four countries, Niger, Uganda, Ghana and Rwanda have shared with us their plans to integrate LSM in their vector control programs. Silas has provided technical support for Ghana and Prosper Chaki for Uganda at the preparatory stage. Silas is also supporting Rwanda in the preparatory phase exploring the potential for using drones for larviciding. There is need to remain engaged and provide further training as the countries engage in larviciding campaigns and monitoring the impact of the intervention.

Gaps: Lack of funds to pay for technical support to National programs

Measuring the impact of the workstream

The success of the workstream would be measured by the following criteria:

- Countries have a clear guidance on how to implement LSM in their contexts and receive technical support as required.
- Countries have a multi-sectoral working group that advocates and supports implementation of different aspects of LSM as appropriate in their contexts
- Countries implement larviciding using WHO recommended larvicides
- Where appropriate, new technology is integrated to improve LSM