



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL: SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT FOR LAO PDR

COMPANY PROFILE

The Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (“APLMA”) unites 22 governments in Asia-Pacific who have committed to eliminating malaria in the region by 2030. APLMA translates evidence to advocate for policy change at the highest levels of government and supports leadership collaboration across the region. By convening senior officials beyond health, evidence monitoring and reporting on progress and bottlenecks and facilitating cross-border collaboration, APLMA supports and provides governments and political leaders access to regional and national insights, as well as visibility on the game-changing approaches and tools they need to end malaria.

For more information, please go to: <https://www.aplma.org>

BACKGROUND

Lao PDR has made impressive progress in controlling and eliminating malaria, with the number of confirmed malaria cases declining dramatically from 46,153 in 2012, to 2,340 a decade later; at the same time, Lao PDR also reported zero malaria deaths for the first time in 2019.¹ The Government of Lao PDR has remained steadfastly committed to achieve malaria elimination in two phases, with the ambition of eliminating *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria in the entire country as well as to eliminate all malaria species in 13 northern provinces by 2025 (Phase 1), and for the entire country to become malaria-free by 2030.²

Reaching these ambitious targets, and contributing to the regional elimination goal, will require enhanced elimination activities, new technologies, programmatic innovation, stronger partnerships, and community engagement. The Center for Malariology, Parasitology, and Entomology (CMPE) leads this elimination effort in collaboration with local and international partners and donors. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (The Global Fund) is the largest external financier of malaria activities in Lao PDR, currently supporting national and regional malaria and health system strengthening activities through the Regional Artemisinin-resistance Initiative (RAI).

Successfully managing the transition from donor to country financing is critical to ensure Lao PDR's continued achievements and long-term sustainability beyond elimination. To prepare for Lao PDR's transition from Global Fund malaria financing and to strengthen the long-term sustainability of Lao PDR's progress towards elimination and beyond, CMPE and APLMA are collaborating on conducting a sustainability and transitions assessment. Furthermore, this proposed collaboration will leverage the Sustainability and Transition Readiness Assessment Tool for Malaria (SUSTAIN), developed by UCSF's Malaria Elimination Initiative.

CALL FOR PROPOSAL

APLMA is seeking an individual or organisation in Lao PDR:

1. To lead an assessment study on the Sustainability and Transition Readiness of the Lao PDR's malaria programme;

¹ WHO World Malaria Report 2023, Annex 4

² Malaria National Strategic Plan 2021 – 2025, Lao PDR

2. To facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogues to prioritise sustainability strategies; and
3. To facilitate the development of a transition and sustainability roadmap that prioritises and outlines the necessary strategies to ensure a smooth transition and the long-term sustainability of the malaria response.

The scope of work is expected to start in April and be completed before the end of December 2024.

SCOPE OF WORK

The sustainability and transitions assessment will be guided by the UCSF MEI Sustainability and Transition Readiness Assessment Tool for Malaria (SUSTAIN), which will be customised for the context and specific needs in Lao PDR. The assessment will employ a mixed-methods approach to examine malaria financing, leadership and management, the health workforce for malaria, supply chain, and specific programme activities, such as epidemiological surveillance and vector control. Key scope of work includes:

Desk research: The assessment will include an analysis of national and sub-national health financing, workforce, and other programme data, including sources such as government and donor health and malaria budgets, internal documents and data describing financial processes and allocations, available cost benefit analyses and human resource plans, and epidemiological data.

Key informant interviews: A critical component of the assessment is qualitative interviews with key leadership, staff, and partners of the malaria programme. Interviews will be conducted in English and in Lao with a range of key stakeholders identified by CMPE and APLMA, including national, subnational and international stakeholders.

Stakeholder engagement and workshop: Key stakeholders will be engaged throughout the assessment, particularly as key informants. Following analysis of this assessment data, APLMA and CMPE will lead a workshop to discuss assessment findings and identify priorities for sustainability and transition activities.

Roadmap development: With inputs from key stakeholders, a sustainability and transition roadmap will be developed to guide a planned transition. This high-level document will include:

- Activities that are set to continue post-transition, and will require continued financing or integration to ensure a successful transition
- Activities specific to the transition process and will end at the completion of the transition process
- Prioritised strategies to leverage existing funding sources, and/or mobilising domestic resources
- A timeline with clear milestones and assigned roles and responsibilities for each prioritised activity and strategy.

Roadmap dissemination workshop: A workshop will be held to disseminate the roadmap among all relevant stakeholders.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The individual or organisation will:

- Conduct data collection and analysis:
 - Lead desk research of financial, health workforce, and epidemiological data.
 - Contribute to the development of the interview guide and other study tools.
 - Conduct key informant interviews.
 - Transcribe and translate interviews in verbatim.
 - Contribute to the analysis of interview transcripts.

- Develop assessment report:
 - Draft the sustainability assessment report which combines analysis of existing data, as well as from key informant interviews.
- Organise stakeholder engagement workshops:
 - Facilitate consultations with a diverse range of stakeholders, including government agencies, academia, civil society organizations, the private sector, and communities.
- Draft the roadmap:
 - Prepare a clear, concise, and evidence-based sustainability and transition roadmap document incorporating feedback from stakeholders.
- Manage the overall project:
 - Assist in the development and management of the project work plan.
 - Provide English-Lao translation as needed.

DELIVERABLES

1. An assessment report that comprehensively captures Lao PDR's sustainability progress, as well as remaining gaps to be addressed to improve the country's readiness and ensure smooth transition and long-term sustainability.
2. A sustainability and transition roadmap that outlines the key sustainability and transition priorities identified through the assessment, as well as the timeline and roles of various stakeholders needed for achieving these priorities.

REQUIREMENTS

- Demonstrated knowledge of Lao PDR's policy, health systems as well as infectious disease management landscape. Existing expertise in malaria will be an advantage;
- Demonstrated experience in document analysis;
- Extensive experience in conducting in-depth stakeholder interviews in the Lao context;
- Strong project management experience;
- Fluency in Lao language.

To apply, please send the below documents to admin@aplma.org by **29 March 2024** with “**Sustainability Assessment for Lao PDR**” in the subject of the email:

- Proposal
- Sample interview transcript (completed without external inputs) from any past project
- Sample report (completed without external inputs) from any past project
- A credentials document highlighting relevant past projects, cover letter, and an itemized quotation or daily rate

We thank you for your interest and regret that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

APLMA is an equal-opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment regardless of race, colour, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, genetics, disability or age.