



United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة • 联合国环境规划署
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ



**Organización
Panamericana
de la Salud**

Oficina Regional de la
Organización Mundial de la Salud

**PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
PAHO/WHO**

**REGIONAL PROGRAM OF ACTION AND
DEMONSTRATION OF SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVES
TO DDT FOR MALARIA VECTOR CONTROL IN MEXICO
AND CENTRAL AMERICA**

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST
MEETING OF THE REGIONAL
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**HUATULCO, MEXICO
MAY 24 – 28, 2004**



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I. INTRODUCTION

Within the framework of the Regional Program of Action and Demonstration of Sustainable Alternatives to DDT for Malaria Vector Control in Mexico and Central America, the first meeting of the Regional Technical Committee was held with the purpose to analyze and approve the Operational Guidelines for demonstrating projects, to train participants from the eight countries participating in the project in its use and reach operational agreements.

This meeting was held in Huatulco, Mexico, on May 24 – 28, 2004. There were 32 participants from the eight project's beneficiary countries, which included focal points from the ministries of health, officials from the Ministry of Health of Mexico, national professionals and consultants from PAHO/WHO Headquarters, experts on malaria and vectors control, geographic information systems and toxicology.

In summary the meeting was held according to the schedule agreed. There were three main instances that facilitated the dialogue, understanding the scope of the regional program, the ownership of the operational guidelines and the consensus on technical patterns and common procedures for the implementation of the demonstrating projects in each country, as well as reaching operating agreements.

II. SUMMARY

The first instance began with the interventions of Dr. Joaquín Molina, PAHO/WHO Representative in Mexico, and Dr. Jorge F. Méndez Galván of the Ministry of Health of Mexico. They both underscore the results from the collaborative and common effort among the countries for the malaria control through the introduction innovative changes without using DDT or any other persistent chemical products. They also emphasize the importance of this activity

of dialog and analysis to improve and diversify the collaboration among countries receiving cooperation from the DDT/GEF Project. They also praised the experiences of the people and Government of Mexico for the control of malaria without using DDT, which are available throughout the sub-region in order to be replicated taking into account particular characteristics of each country.

The second instance was the presentation of three issues of general interest:

Dr. Samuel Henao, PAHO/WHO HQ, explained the contents and objectives of DDT/GEF Project, as well as the general activities timetable according to the project's four components, indicators and activities. Dr. Henao underlined and thanked the efforts of the Mexican National Technical Team and PAHO/WHO local representation who played a key role in the organization and coordination of this meeting and he also officially introduced Ing. Emilio Ramírez Pinto from Honduras, as the Project's Regional Coordinator, located in, appointed by PAHO/WHO as of June 16 2004.

El Dr. Jorge Méndez from the Ministry of Health of Mexico discussed in deep in relation to the efforts of malaria control in this country. He emphasized the historical milestones and the strategies fostered at the national level, particularly during the last five years that produced significant benefits and impact on Mexico's public health. Among other indicators he mentioned the reduction of malaria cases from 140,000 to 3,000 in the year 2003, with the extensive participation of the population, strengthening the population's cultural factor and a significant reduction in the use of chemical products.

On the other hand, Ing. Ramírez Pinto presented the progresses of SharePoint, as a communication and managerial tool to streamline DDT/GEF Project's virtual community. It is a server with access through PAHO's virtual network with Internet Explorer (IE) at any point where there is an Internet Connection. It was emphasized that this is a mechanism to share project's information, knowledge and

experiences among all stakeholders through sharing documents, images, contact lists, calendars, announcements, tasks control and links to other sites of interest.

The third instance was devoted to the main objective of the meeting, which included discussion and approval of the “Technical Guidelines for Demonstrative Projects”. Simultaneously, several issues related to the guidelines were addressed, among them the operational basis for the geographic information system (GIS), PAHP/WHO technical guidelines on the strategy against malaria, proposal for institutional and laboratory network strengthening, field visit and closing.

The study and validation of the operational guidelines generated and enlightening exchange of knowledge and experiences among participants. Contents, strategies and operational bases were reviewed through group workshops, plenary discussions and quick observation field visits to the community of Santo Domingo Morelos. The first draft of the guidelines are validated, which will be concluded and edited between June and July of this year, with the support of Dr. Ángel F. Betanzos, principal author, Ing. Ramírez Pinto, Regional Coordinator, PAHO/WHO Headquarters and country representatives.

The guideline includes a geographic information system (GIS), therefore, Dr. Manuel Vidaurre, PAHO/WHO HQ consultant from AIS technical area explained the system’s characteristics and the technical requirements for the operation of a GIS. According to Dr. Vidaurre this system is an organized package of technologies that includes hardware, software, digital geographic data, analysis methods and staff designed to collect, store, update, manage, analyze and display georeference information. According to opinions from the participants this system is an excellent technological input for the national and local processes, particularly for the systematization and organization of relevant information regarding the demonstrative projects that each country will carry out.

The relevant support from Dr. Keith Carter, PAHO/WHO, Washington, DC, emphasized that the models against malaria should include diagnosis (use of rapid

tests) and timely and effective treatment, selective measures of sustainable prevention, detection and containment of outbreaks; as well as operational research addressing ecological, socio-cultural, socioeconomic and other determinants. He explained that the use of doses lower than those recommended by WHO/PAHO there is the risk of not killing the parasite and not interrupting transmission.

In other presentation, Dr. Fernando Días Barriga, Toxicologist from the Environmental Pediatric Unit, of the School of Medicine of the Autonomous University of San Luis Potosí, Mexico, with a lecture on environmental toxicology, explaining the characteristics of DDT, its eco-toxicity, persistence and bio-magnification. He mention that the project will foster malaria control without using DDT, but also provide studies for its residual assessment, determine the source of exposition and the risks for public and environmental health.

He emphasized the extraordinary sources of DDT exposure, among them fish, breast-milk from highly exposed women, river basins and others.

The most vulnerable population group are children due to the exposition route with the soil, basic staple foods and breast-milk. He also mentioned other plaguicides, such as deltametrine with broad spectrum of exposition in walls, air and soil, which combined with other organo-phosphate plaguicides changes its metabolism turning it more toxic.

He concluded on the importance to assess residual DDT. Therefore, during this project assessments will be made in environmental (soil, sediment and water) and biological (humans and fish) samples in at least three contaminated sites per country. For this purpose laboratories equipped with gas chromatography and electron uptake detectors are required, as well as training of national human resources and laboratory strengthening with a quality control program.

III. GENERAL AGREEMENTS

The in-depth discussion of issues helped to reach certain general agreements described below.

3.1. Operational guidelines for the demonstrative projects

The final edition of the operational guidelines was placed on charge of Dr. Angel Betanzo, National professional from PAHO/WHO Mexico and Ing. Emilio Ramírez Pinto, Regional Coordinator of the DDT/GEF Project. This activity will be concluded by the end of July 2004.

Each country will submit to the Regional Coordinator a brief summary of each of the following subjects that then will be included into the guidelines:

- current situation of malaria in each country;
- treatment schedule for malaria;
- epidemiological surveillance systems of malaria;
- report forms; and
- experiences in the elimination of DDT.

3.2. Geographic information system (GIS).

Acquisition of office equipment ensuring technical performance for the adequate operation of the GIS, which will be specified in the operational guidelines (“Annex II: Recommended computer hardware”, page 55 of the operational guidelines of the demonstrative projects). Prior to issuing the final purchase order the countries will confirm these specifications with PAHO/WHO HQ.

Each country should identify availability of cartographic data in national institutions in order to gather geographic and demographic information from the zones where the demonstrative projects will take place. It was recommended to consult the

specifications in the section “digital cartographic data bases” in page 49 of the guidelines.

Therefore, PAHO/WHO HQ and Information System will develop a schedule to provide technical support to the countries for the implementation of the GIS.

3.3. Project's coordination and management

The national professionals from each country will submit the quarterly report corresponding to the April, May and June 2004 quarter by the third week of June. Also to complete the execution of technical activities programmed and funded for the first semester, such as purchase of equipment, field preparatory visits and local community socialization meetings.

Upon request of country representatives it was analyzed the urgent acquisition of vehicles for the demonstration projects zones. It was agreed that each country will make the relevant consultations in relation to unit's maintenance costs in each country, prior to submit the request of purchase for approval from the donor...

IV. LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE FIELD VISIT

It was considered important that participants have a first hand contact with some Mexican experience of community participation for the control of the malaria vector, visiting the Zapoteca indigenous population of Santo Domingo Morelos, during the third day of the meeting on Wednesday, May 26, 2004.

For the country representatives it was encouraging to find most of the population present and organized in working groups, mainly women, indigenous leaders, municipal representatives and local health officials. Each had their tools for manual drainage of water streams and cleaning breeding points around the community.

They have been carrying out this activity for more than five years, and according to the opinion of leaders interviewed, has enabled them to reduce indicators of anopheles density and the reduction of malaria cases.

From the observations made by the participants there are certain lessons that can aid in the implementation of the demonstration projects:

- The sustained social motivation and mobilization strengthen and maintain the solidarity links and the cultural principles among individuals, families and communities, in favor of initiatives in the fight against malaria without using chemical products.
- It also enables the communities to address and solve the malaria problem within the context of comprehensive development, placing this issue permanently in the community and municipal discussion agenda.
- Facilitates the institutions to plan, organize, execute and evaluate technical cooperation with team-work principles, inter-sectoral action, respect for community traditions and the indigenous perspective.
- The material incentives to achieve community participation jeopardize the sustainability of actions. The best incentive is local capacity building and the transference of knowledge, methodologies and managerial tools. It was agreed that delivering material incentives should be a local decision.
- Other lesson learned is not to extend temporary solutions, on the contrary, to promote long-term measures that will improve the living conditions of the population. Therefore it was recommended to foster the promotion of health as the driving force for the mobilization of other sectors. For this community it was mentioned the development of auxiliary infrastructure and sanitary engineering projects to be administered by the community.
- In summary the field visit provided a series of elements that helped the review of the operational guidelines taking into account the local reality.

ANNEXES

Enclosed there is a list of all participants, meeting's working schedule and photographs from the event.

List of participants and addresses

**PARTICIPANTS, FIRST MEETING OF THE REGIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
HUATULCO, MEXICO, MAY 24 – 28, 2004**

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5.2 Meeting's working schedule

First Meeting of the Regional Technical Committee of DDT/GEF Project "Regional Program of Action and Demonstration of Sustainable Alternatives to DDT for Malaria Vector Control in Mexico and Central America"

Huatulco, Mexico, May 24 – 28, 2004

Objectives:

- ✓ To analyze and approve the Technical Guidelines for the demonstrative projects.
- ✓ To analyze the conceptual framework and Operational Guidelines.
- ✓ To train national professionals and focal points for the development of the demonstrative projects.
- ✓ To define the plan of the demonstrative projects by country.

WORKING SCHEDULE

Monday, May 24

- 9:00 **Opening**
- 9:15 **Introduction of participants**
- 9:30 **DDT/GEF Project**
- Objectives
 - Basic guidelines
 - Timetable of general activities.
- 10:00 **Operational Guidelines of DDT/GEF Project**
- 10:45 Coffee break
- 11:00 **Technical Guidelines for Demonstrative Projects**
- 12:00 Lunch break
- 13:30 - 17:30 **Technical Guidelines for Demonstrative Projects**
- Community participation and inter-sectoral coordination
 - Epidemiological surveillance
 - Workshop:
 - Definition of control actions
 - Definition of evaluation indicators
 - Review and consensus of the contents (Guidelines)

Tuesday, May 25

- 8:30 **Technical Guidelines for Demonstrative Projects**
- Information and evaluation system
- 12:00 Lunch break
- 13:30 **Selection and definition of localities for the demonstrative projects**

Wednesday, May 26

- 8:30 **Field visit - Sto. Domingo Morelos**
Operational experiences of breeding sites elimination with community participation
- 13:30 Lunch break
- 14: 30 – 17:30 **Session for discussion and working agreements**
- Alternatives for control and community participation

Thursday, May 27

- 8:30 **Health, Environment and Laboratory Strengthening**
- 11:00 **Action plan for demonstrative projects ***
- 12:00 Lunch break
- 13:30 – 17:30 **Action plan for demonstrative projects (continued)***

Friday, May 28

- 8:30 **Presentation of action plans for demonstrative projects***
- 10:45 Coffee break
- 11:00 **Conclusions and comments.**
- 12:00 – **Closing**