Findings from the training needs assessment

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ASIA PACIFIC LEADERS MALARIA ALLIANCE

ASIA PACIFIC MALARIA ELIMINATION NETWORK

MOTIVATION

The goal of the TNA is to scope the needs of NMCPs and the capacity to provide training that meet these needs by partner institutions. An assessment of the TNA responses will guide the SRWG's work in:

1. Matching similarities in training needs between NMCPs to create NMCP Supportive Partnerships
2. Matching partner institutions with training capacity with NMCPs with training needs to create Technical Support Initiatives
3. Identify channels for further exchange -> TechTalk topics, online workshops

METHOD

1. SURVEY

- Survey developed in consultation with the APMEN Secretariat, VCWG, VxWG
- Feedback from external partners regarding survey format and training topics was also incorporated during the first round of distribution (soft launch)
- Qualtrics platform was used

2. DISTRIBUTION

- 4 rounds (including soft launch)
- Total audience: 137
- 52 NMCP member from 21 countries
- 85 members from partner and donor organizations

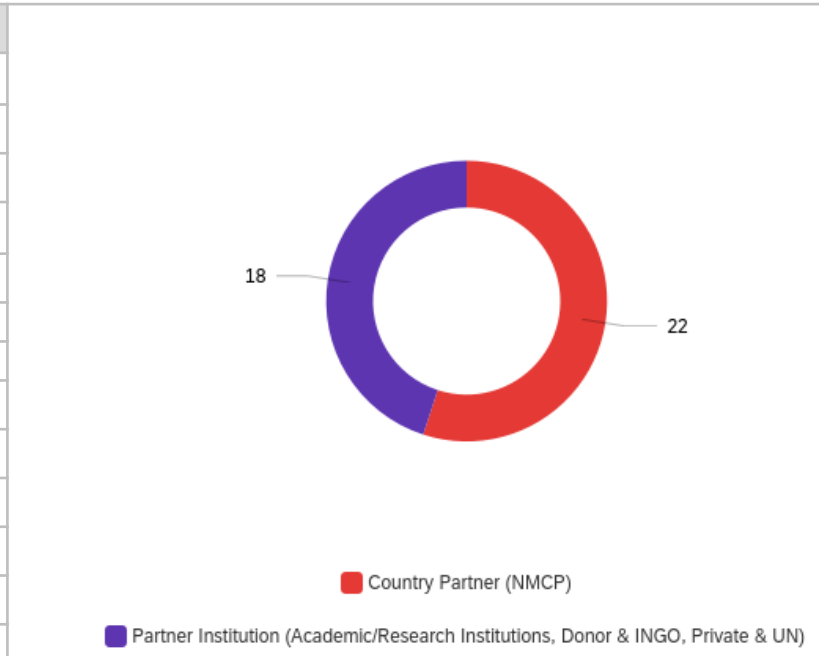
METHOD

3. FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSIONS

- For respondents who have indicated interest in participating
- CPs : discuss challenges in their programmes, clarify training topics, specify target groups
- PIs: reconfirm interest to collaborate, clarify topics, scope for courses/tools ready to share/in-development

TNA SURVEY RESULTS: response breakdown

Partner institutions	Responses
ACTMalaria	1
Aga Khan University	1
Australian National University	1
James Cook University	1
Mahidol Vivax Research Unit	1
Malaria Consortium	4
PATH	1
Pilipinas Shell Foundation	1
RITM* (Medical entomology)	1
RITM* (Parasitology)	1
RTI International**	1
Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd.	1
Tribhuvan University	1
UCSF Malaria Elimination Initiative	1
USAMD-AFRIMS	1
15 unique PIs	**18**

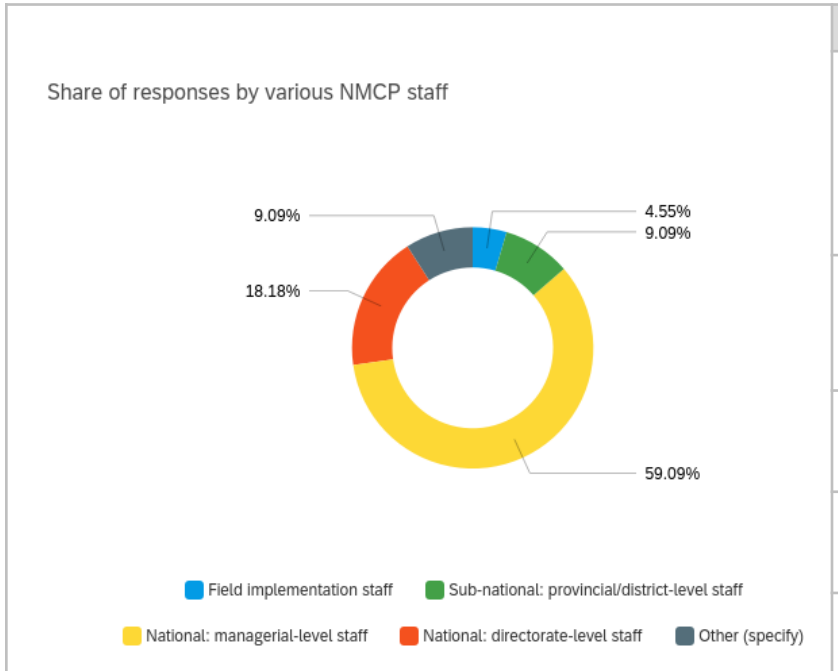


Country partners	Response
Bangladesh	6
Myanmar	2
Pakistan	2
Philippines	2
Solomon Islands	2
Afghanistan	1
Bhutan	1
Cambodia	1
Lao PDR	1
Malaysia	1
Sri Lanka	1
Thailand	1
Viet Nam	1
13 unique CPs	**22**

**Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, Philippines*

***RTI International is currently not an official APMEN partner institution*

TNA SURVEY RESULTS: share of responses by various country partner staff



Type of Staff	Country (number of responses)	Total responses
National: Managerial level	Bangladesh (2) Bhutan (1) Cambodia (1) Lao PDR (1) Malaysia (1) Myanmar (1) Pakistan (1) Philippines (1) Solomon Islands (1) Thailand (1) Vietnam (1)	**12**
National: Directorate-level staff	Afghanistan (1) Pakistan (1) Solomon Island (1) Sri Lanka (1)	**4**
Sub-national: provincial/district level staff	Bangladesh (2)	**2**
Other	Bangladesh (1) *Surveillance medical officer** Philippines (1) *Entomologist*	**2**
Field implementation staff	Bangladesh (2)	**2**
Total	**13 Unique CPs**	**22**

** based on follow-up interview, considered field implementation staff*

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TNA SURVEY RESULTS: training topics ranked by number of interested country partners

Training Topic	Number of interested CPs	Number of PIs with capacity
Mapping and GIS	13	5
Basic mathematical modelling		4
Programme management	12	8
Operational research methodology		9
Writing research papers	11	6
Outbreak detection		6
Monitoring and evaluation of surveillance systems		6
Integration of entomology and epidemiology data		7
Effective report writing		7
Data utilization (data to action)		7
Data quality assurance		4
Advanced statistical analysis		5
Genetics (Malaria vectors and parasite)	10	5
Entomological surveillance		7
Using case-based data to develop response strategies	9	6
Foci investigation		6
Community engagement		8
Understanding research papers	8	6
Drug efficacy surveillance		5
Data processing		8
Case investigation		8
Basic statistical analysis		10
Advanced mathematical modelling		2
Using mHealth tools for data collection	7	3
Data storage		7
Grant management	6	6
Research Ethics	5	4
Data collection		9
Genetics (Humans)	4	2

TNA SURVEY RESULTS: training topics ranked by priority level

Training topic	Points (balanced CPs)
Entomological surveillance	**18**
Using case-based data to develop response strategies	**13**
Integration of entomology and epidemiology data	**12**
Data utilization (data to action)	**11**
Case investigation	**9**
Monitoring and evaluation of surveillance systems	**8**
Basic mathematical modelling	**6**
Basic statistical analysis	**6**
Foci investigation	**6**
Mapping and GIS	**6**
Advanced mathematical modelling	**4**
Outbreak detection	**4**
Data quality assurance	**3**
Genetics (malaria vector)	**2**
Programme management	**2**
Using mHealth tools for data collection	**2**
Grant management	**1**
Operational research methodology	**1**
Writing research papers	**1**

- Country partners asked to rank top three priorities
- Priorities assigned points (ranked 1st = 3pts, 2nd = 2 pts, 3rd = 1 pts)
- Balanced responses; multiple responses from a single country (Bangladesh, etc.) counted as single response per topic

TNA SURVEY RESULTS: preferences for receiving/providing training

	CP preferences (response count)			PI preferences (response count)	
Mode of training					
1	Face-to-face training on virtual platform	8		Face-to-face training on virtual platform	11
2	Self-paced training program (VDO + material)	4		Other*	3
3	On-demand online training videos	4		On-demand online training videos	2
4	Other	0		Self-paced training program (VDO + material)	1
Platform of training					
1	Zoom	9		Zoom	10
2	GoogleMeet	3		Microsoft Teams	4
3	Microsoft Teams	2		Other**	2
4	Other	0		Googlemeet	1
Duration of training					
1	1-2 hrs.	8		3-4 hrs. w/ breaks	7
2	3-4 hrs. w/ breaks	4		1-2 hrs.	6
3	0-1 hrs.	4		0-1 hrs.	4
4	5-6 hrs. w/ breaks	0		5-6 hrs. w/ breaks	1
Time for training (*responses adjusted to Singapore-time zone*)					
1	Afternoon	8		Afternoon	7
2	Morning	5		Morning	5
3	Midday	4		Evening	2
4	Evening	2		Midday	2

** Other responses include: not sure, both face-to-face and online training videos for ESPT and high-risk populations surveillance guide toolkit (UCSF), both on demand and face-to-face training if pandemic is better (MVRU).*

*** Other responses include: not sure, and moodle*

- Most country partners and partner institutions prefer online face-to-face training
- Zoom is the most preferred platform to have training
- Country partners prefer shorter training sessions
- Most country partners and partner institutions prefer to have training in the afternoon (Singapore time)

FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSIONS

- Out of 40 respondents, 32 indicated interest to participate in follow-up discussions
- 24 out of 32 respondents interviewed
  - 11 CP representatives from 8 unique countries
  - 13 PI representatives from 10 unique organizations

Preferences/interests that emerged from country partner interviews

- Learning from other countries
  - Partner countries requests: surveillance systems in Thailand, China, Sri Lanka
  - Partner institution suggestions: Thailand (surveillance system, data quality assessment tool), Philippines (MIS, data integration)
- Preference to start at basic level to build interest
- Preference for more simple tools (statistics; excel, no R) and free mapping tools (QGIS)
- Trainings should target more peripheral staff
- Combination of training modes: Face-to-face + On demand videos + support system
- Length of training workshop depends on training topic and duration of training per day

TNA FOLLOW-UP INTERVIEW RESULTS: Top training topics discussed by country partners

Training topic	Countries indicating interest in receiving training	Partner institutions interested in providing training
Entomological surveillance	5 (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Pakistan)	6
Data utilization (data to action)	5 (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Pakistan)	4
Basic statistical analysis	4 (Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Vietnam)	2
Mapping and GIS	4 (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Vietnam)	2
Case investigation	3 (Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan)	4
Monitoring and evaluation of surveillance systems	3 (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan)	5
Foci investigation	2 (Bangladesh and Lao PDR)	1
Outbreak detection	2 (Bangladesh and Pakistan)	3
Data quality assurance	2 (Lao PDR, Pakistan)	3
Using case-based data to develop response strategies	2 (Bangladesh and Vietnam)	1
Integration of entomology and epidemiology data	2 (Pakistan, Sri Lanka)	5
Using mHealth tools for data collection	2 (Sri Lanka, Vietnam)	0
Basic mathematical modelling	1 (Bangladesh)	2
Operational research methodology	2 (Afghanistan, Cambodia and Pakistan)	4
Writing research papers	1 (Afghanistan)	3

- Main topics of interest generally similar to TNA survey findings, with some divergence in content expected to be covered
- Entomological surveillance still top training priority for respondents along with cluster topics
  - These will be investigated further in breakout activity today