

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Open call for Research Partner to conduct landscape assessment and operational research on Integrated Vector Management (IVM) in Milne Bay province of Papua New Guinea

### Summary

Description	Open call for research partner to conduct landscape assessment and operational research on Integrated Vector Management (IVM) in Milne Bay province of Papua New Guinea
Release date	31 <sup>st</sup> Mar 2022
Closing date for submission of proposal	18 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2022 (5pm Singapore time)
Offer period	Offers to remain open for acceptance by APLMA for three months after submission
Submission of proposal	Email to <a href="mailto:admin@aplma.org">admin@aplma.org</a> Please send documents as a PDF file

### Introduction

The Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA) is a coalition of the Asia Pacific heads of government who have committed to eliminate malaria in the region by 2030. It is a regional platform that brings together senior leadership to accelerate malaria elimination efforts and highlights challenges and risks posed to the regional malaria elimination goal. APLMA works in tandem with the Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network (APMEN), an inter-disciplinary platform of 21 national malaria programmes and 50 partner organizations, including malaria research institutes, implementing partners and civil society. APMEN is the technical arm that leads in-country needs assessments, program capacity building, cross-regional knowledge exchange and building the evidence base needed for advocacy. The APLMA-APMEN (AA) joint secretariat is a non-profit organization registered and located in Singapore. More information on APLMA can be obtained at <https://www.aplma.org/>

To support countries in their malaria elimination efforts, APLMA:

- Collaborates with partner organizations to progress the elimination agenda and to prioritize issues for leaders' attention;
- Conducts and commissions research to build the evidence base for effective interventions and to develop policy options;
- Tracks progress against an agreed Dashboard; and
- Advocates for policy priorities established by the EAS leaders, the World Health Organization and national Task Forces.

APLMA recognizes and complements country efforts led by national governments and supported by the World Health Organization. It also acknowledges the large number of existing organizations working to reduce and eliminate malaria. APLMA facilitates high-level engagement on the building blocks for malaria elimination, including research, policy and program coordination, program management, finance and governance.

### Project Background

The Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance and Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network (APLMA-APMEN) in partnership with the Global Institute for Disease Elimination (GLIDE) have launched a project to help drive elimination efforts for malaria and Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

In the Asia Pacific region, both malaria and LF have much in common in terms of their geographical distribution and transmission dynamics. Anopheles mosquitoes (vector) transmit both malaria and LF and vector control methods targeting this vector can effectively reduce transmission of both infections. A notable example being from Solomon Islands, where the malaria eradication initiative with indoor

residual spraying (with DDT) resulted in disappearance of LF.<sup>1</sup> While Mass Drug Administration (MDA) remains the primary form of control for LF, vector control can play a complementary role in its elimination<sup>2</sup>. Field trials have shown in areas where MDA is complemented by vector control interventions, fewer annual rounds of MDA would be required to achieve elimination.<sup>3</sup>

WHO recommends adopting Integrated Vector Management approach in those situations where the areas are co-endemic for both malaria and LF. Papua New Guinea (PNG) is well primed to adopt an integrated approach to deal with malaria and LF, as both diseases are transmitted by the same vector-members of the *Anopheles punctulatus* group of mosquitoes.

Milne Bay province has been identified as the geographic focus for this project since the province is endemic for both malaria and LF. As a part of this multiyear project, a landscape assessment of current interventions and challenges with the LF and malaria programs will be conducted<sup>4</sup>.

APLMA recently commissioned a deep dive assessment in Milne Bay, focusing on the enablers and challenges towards malaria elimination and determine short and long-term priorities. The findings from this deep dive assessment will be taken into consideration while assessing LF and malaria situation in the aforementioned landscape assessment.

The recommendations from the landscape assessment will feed into the design of an operational research study to test out options for integrated vector control approaches. Based on the results of the OR study, an advocacy plan will be developed in close consultation with key stakeholders to advocate for joint vector control efforts.

The contract period is for 18 months from May 2022 to Dec 2023.

## Scope of work

### Landscape assessment

1. Describe the epidemiological situation for both LF and malaria nationally and for the Milne Bay province (for the malaria situation in PNG and Milne Bay, reference should be made to the APLMA-APMEN assessment reports)
2. Describe the ongoing strategies for elimination of LF nationally and in Milne Bay province
3. Describe existing or possible synergies between interventions for LF and malaria
4. Describe if any efforts have been made by the national/sub-national governments to adopt Integrated Vector Management approaches for control and elimination of vector borne diseases
5. Make recommendations on IVM interventions that can be tested out as part of the OR study and how they might benefit both diseases
6. Make recommendations on the geographic focus (co-endemic district) of the OR study in consultation with the national and provincial authorities

### Operational research

#### Design of the OR

1. Consult with the National Department of Health-PNG (NDoH) & Provincial partners to understand priority research questions.
2. Consult and share with APLMA-APMEN findings from NDOH & other government consultations
3. Design the operational research study by identifying appropriate research methodology and
4. Develop detailed protocol and SOPs for the operational research including selection of operational research site, plan for implementation and testing of the identified interventions, data collection, analysis and reporting.
5. Support the APLMA-APMEN team in presenting the OR protocol to key stakeholders for their feedback

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<sup>1</sup> Webber, R. H. (1977). The natural decline of *Wuchereria bancrofti* infection in a vector control situation in the Solomon Islands. Transactions of The Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

<sup>2</sup> Bockarie, Pedersen, White, & Michael, 2009

<sup>3</sup> Berg, H. v., Kelly-Hope, L. A., & Lindsay, P. S. (2012). Malaria and lymphatic filariasis: the case for integrated vector management. The Lancet Infectious Diseases.

<sup>4</sup> APLMA-APMEN, in partnership with the National Department of Health, the Provincial Health Authority of Milne Bay, and the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), has conducted a detailed situational assessment of malaria in Milne Bay Province. This report will be made available to the Awardee and will feed into the landscape assessment

### Ethical approval and clearances

1. Facilitate ethical approval process for the operational research study from institutes/government bodies/independent committees in PNG
2. Develop documents based on the requirement of the ethical approval process and ensure that the approval is obtained prior to initiation of the operational research study.

### Implementation of operational research study in selected areas of Milne Bay, Papua New Guinea:

1. Train the on-ground team on implementation of OR interventions
2. Conduct operational research activities as per the protocol in select areas
3. Manage on site activities (implementation of interventions, data collection) including reporting and management of the on-ground team.
4. Conduct regular monitoring to ensure that the operational research is being conducted as per the plan and suggest course correction accordingly
5. Conduct analysis of the data collected as per the protocol

### Reporting:

1. Prepare interim and final study reports including presentations for the government partners and other key stakeholders
2. Support APLMA-APMEN team in development of briefs and presentations for workshop/meetings for dissemination of landscape assessment and operational research findings
3. Develop Integrated Vector Management (IVM) plan for control and elimination of malaria and LF in Papua New Guinea, based on the findings from the Operational Research
4. Co-author a peer reviewed paper/article with APLMA-APMEN to publish the findings of the OR

The Awardee will report to the APLMA Secretariat and will work in coordination with the NDOH Malaria and LF programs and Provincial Health Authority of Milne Bay province. The scope of work and list of activities may be subject to revision over time as the project needs develop. Changes will be effective only on mutual agreement between the Awardee and APLMA-APMEN.

### Deliverables

Under this Agreement and with the support of APLMA/APMEN, AWARDEE will complete the following deliverables:

1. Landscape assessment report for implementation of IVM approaches for malaria and LF in Milne Bay, PNG
2. Operational research design protocol
3. Interim and final operational research study report – findings and recommendations
4. Draft IVM plan
5. Peer reviewed paper/article in co-authorship with APLMA-APMEN and disease programs of PNG.

### Timelines for the project

- Landscape assessment (including preparation of report and dissemination workshop): April-July 2022
- Operational research study (including preparation of report and dissemination workshop): Aug 2022- Nov 2023

Please note that the implementation & delivery timelines are tentative and subject to change based on discussion with government stakeholders and preliminary assessment.

### Budget

The tentative budget for the project is 75,000 USD (inclusive of all taxes)

### Proposal format

The proposal must be in English and be not more than 10 pages long. The following must be included:

#### Details

- Legal entity and business name
- Registered office address and principal place of business (must be in PNG)
- Ability to receive foreign funds
- Proposer's contact who is authorised to represent and legally bind the Proposer (name, address, email, phone)

#### Service Proposal

- Description of the organization
- Details of team which will work on this project
- Narrative on capability and plan to deliver on the Scope of Work
- Description of any previous or current engagement with National Department of Health, PNG and Provincial Health Authority- Milne Bay
- Description of previous or current work related to operational research on vector control
- Evidence of knowledge and familiarity with malaria and LF
- Information on other unique selling points or additional services that would be valuable to the project

#### Price proposal

- Total price and detailed breakdown of expenses

#### Evaluation criteria

Item	Criteria	Weightage
Service Proposal	Implementing capability	80%
Price Proposal	Value for money	20%

#### Awarding of contract

Awarding of contract: end-April 2022

Where no qualified submission is received, APLMA reserves the right to reopen or revise the Request for Proposal (RfP).

#### Contact

Submission of questions and other queries to [ssingh@aplma.org](mailto:ssingh@aplma.org)