

Ref: GMD/HIA/058-2024/UW/ra

Subject: RAI Long Term Sustainability and Transition Planning

Dear Assoc. Prof. Dr. Phouthone Muongpak, CCM Lao PDR Chair,

As the RAI4E grant for 2024-2026 has recently begun, the Global Fund Regional Artemisinin-Resistance Initiative (RAI) Team would like to thank you and your CCM colleagues for the excellent collaboration through the Funding Request process. Prior to grantmaking, the Global Fund Technical Review Panel (TRP) shared extensive positive feedback on the Funding Request, thanks to the efforts of the CCMs.

The TRP also requested *“to update sustainability and transitioning planning and articulate clear timelines that indicate which activities need to continue with Global Fund support at the regional level and which activities should transition to country-level ownership and financing”* by end 2024. In response to this recommendation, at a dedicated sustainability session at the 23rd RSC Meeting in November 2023, country representatives committed to sharing sustainability roadmaps by end 2024.

The Global Fund and the Regional Steering Committee consider sustainability planning an important element of consolidating the progress made so far against malaria in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS). This is consistent across the HIV and TB programs funded by the Global Fund where sustainability planning is also critical. The recent OIG audit of the RAI grant highlighted the need for engagement of a broad set of stakeholders in taking this agenda forward.

As the Country Coordinating Mechanisms bring together a range of Ministries, community representatives, and partners, we kindly request that the CCM:

- Include the topic of sustainability for malaria, TB and HIV programs as a regular agenda point.
- Review sustainability activities conducted to date and documents developed.
- Prepare sustainability and transition road maps for malaria including synergies with HIV and TB sustainability plans and health system integration and sustainability more broadly.
- Support the Lao PDR CCM's nominated representative to the RSC, Dr Khampheng Phongluxa, to present the road map at the 24th RAI Regional Steering Committee Meeting in November 2024.

RSC Members including the Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA) have offered their assistance to the GMS countries to develop and implement sustainability planning. If any additional support is required, we would be happy to discuss and try to facilitate.

We appreciate your support and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Urban Weber

Urban Weber
Head - High Impact Asia Department

CC: Prof. Arjen M. Dondorp, Chair, RAI Regional Steering Committee