



RAI4E Progress Update

The 2nd CCM Plenary Meeting

23 July 2024

**BUILD
THE FUTURE**



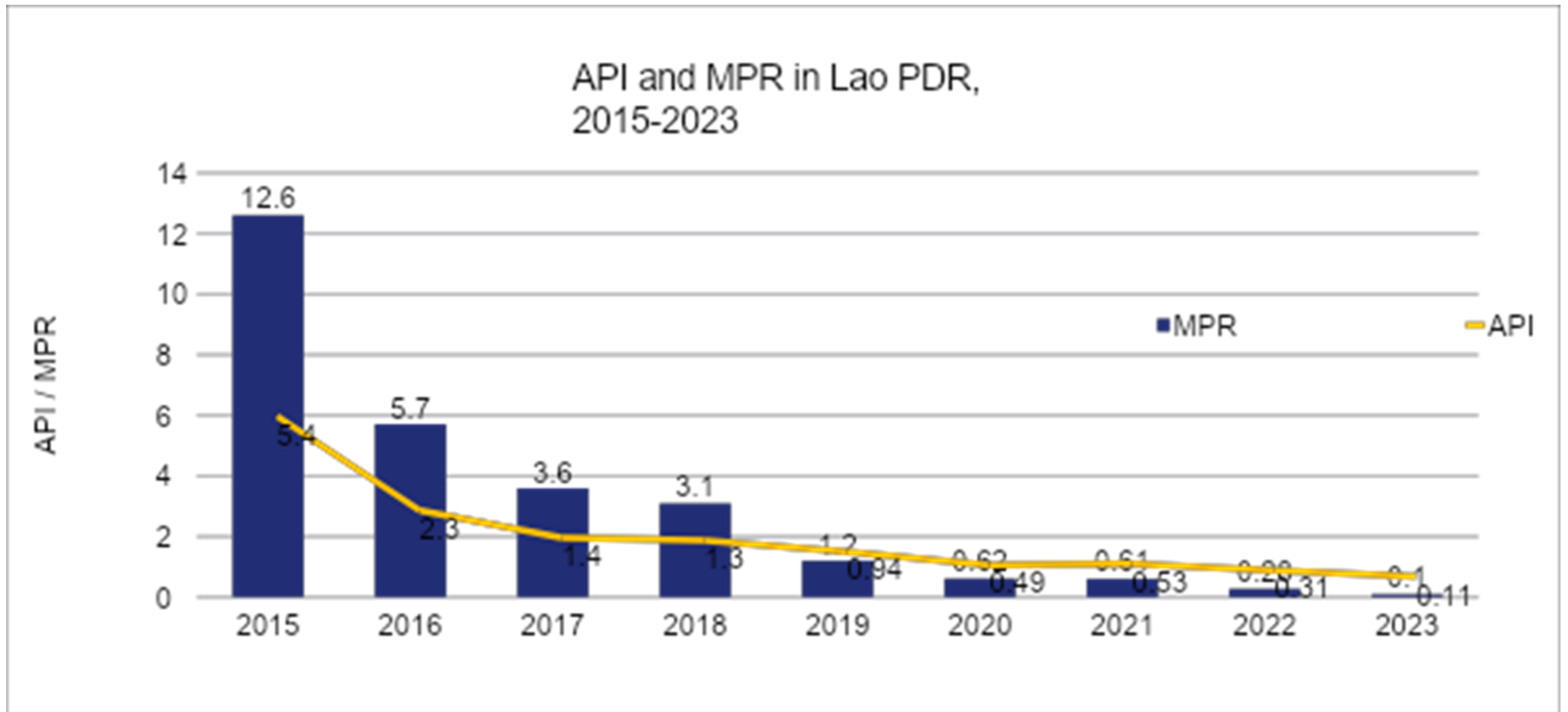
Presentation Outline

- Malaria situation
- Changes to Policy & Plans
- Key Implemented Activities
 - Sustainability
 - Audits and DQR
 - Key Challenges

Malaria Situation



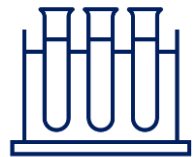
Malaria Situation - API and MPR



Malaria Situation (Jan-Jun 2024)

2024
Jan-Jun

% change from
2023 (Jan-Jun)



370,384
tests

-2.28%



125
positive

- 43.44%



39
Pf & mixed

+8.33%

86 Pv

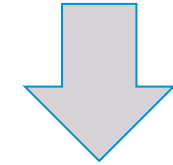
-53.51%



Malaria Situation (Jan-Jun 2024)

No	Province	Target (Jan-Jun 2024)	Tests (Jan-Jun 2024)	Achieved %	Target Vs Test	case load in Jan-June
1	Vientiane. C	1,287	3,056	237.45%	(1,769)	
2	Phongsaly	2,479	4,809	193.99%	(2,330)	
3	Luangnamtha	2,362	3,499	148.14%	(1,137)	
4	Oudomxay	3,465	5,341	154.14%	(1,876)	
5	Bokeo	1,795	4,078	227.19%	(2,283)	
6	Luangprabang	5,892	5,734	97.32%	158	
7	Huaphanh	3,559	6,060	170.27%	(2,501)	
8	Xayabury	4,190	3,248	77.52%	942	
9	Xiengkhuang	4,246	4,374	103.01%	(128)	
10	Vientiane. P	4,803	6,973	145.18%	(2,170)	
11	Borikhamxay	3,571	3,823	107.06%	(252)	
12	Khammuane	13,335	15,250	114.36%	(1,915)	4
13	Savannakhet	77,751	81,948	105.40%	(4,197)	12
14	Saravane	63,843	70,442	110.34%	(6,599)	51
15	Sekong	34,592	30,786	89.00%	3,806	35
16	Champasack	66,283	82,961	125.16%	(16,678)	6
17	Attapeu	43,316	38,859	89.71%	4,457	17
18	Xaysomboun	773	1,202	155.50%	(429)	-
	Total	337,542	372,443	110.34%	(34,901)	125

Central and Northern provinces are over-testing (mainly public sector); much more than the targets, although no cases were found



Overconsumption of RDTs and need for additional funding

Overtesting = ~ 35,000

Accelerator Strategies



Accelerator Strategies 2024

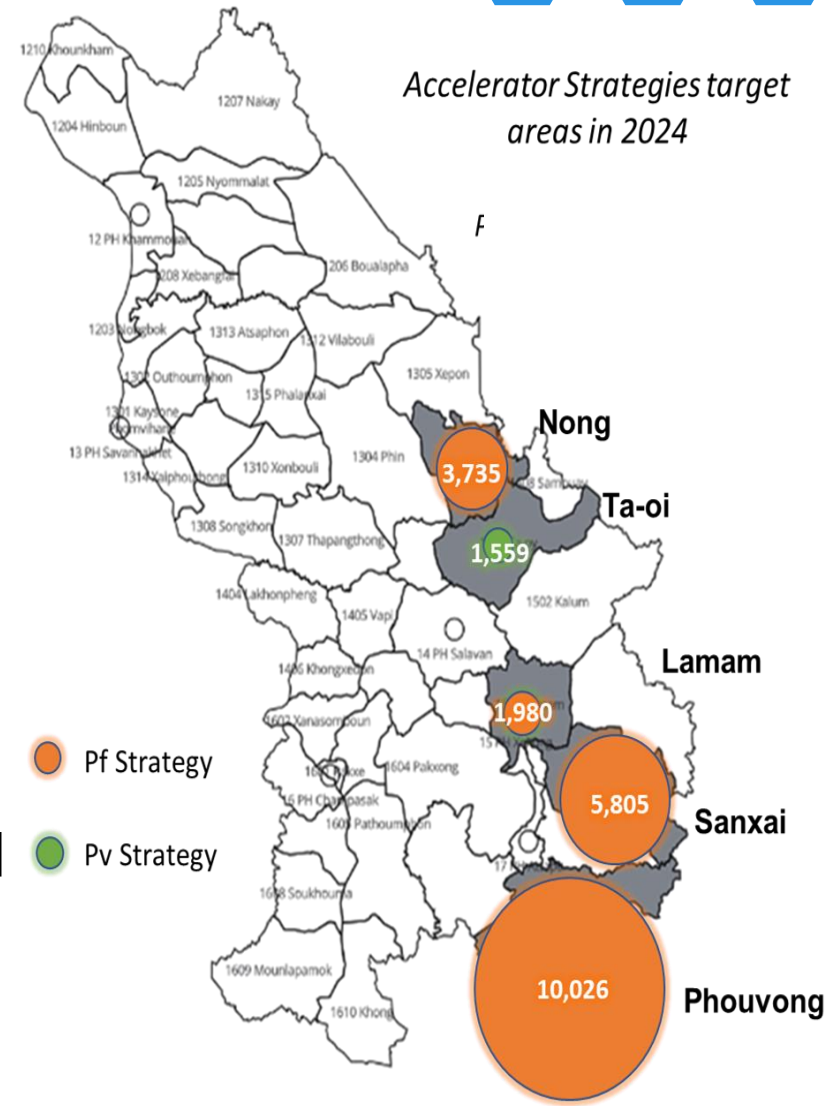


2024 strategy is tailored to target species:

- Pf = TDA x2 rounds with AS-PY + PQ SLD
- Pv = TDA x4 rounds with CQ

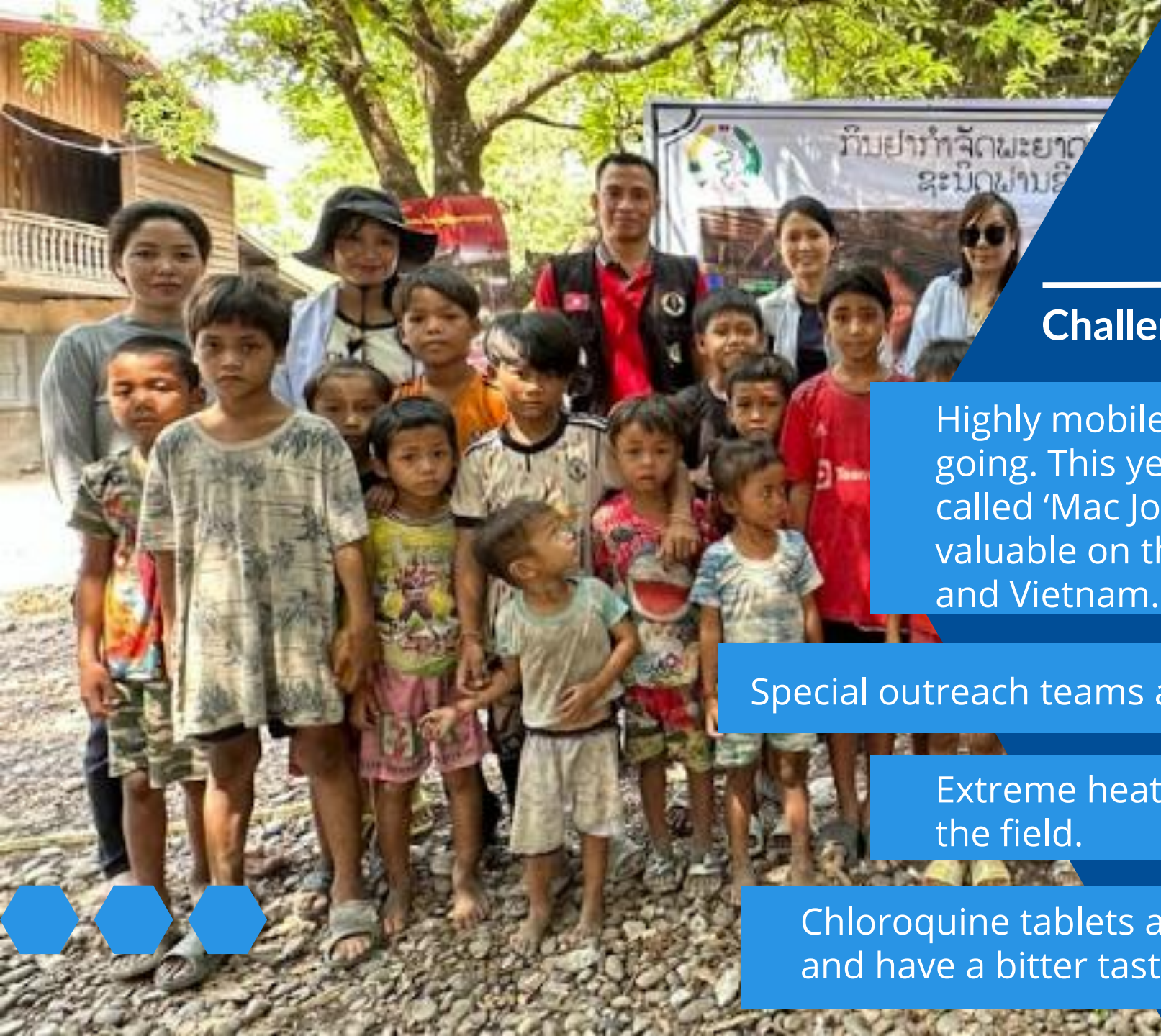
Implementation started on 22 April 2024

TDA1 & TDA2 completed



TDA1 & TDA2 completed





Data indicates that all 50 villages achieved the target indicator of 90% coverage in TDA1 and 92% in TDA2

Challenges:

Highly mobile populations- for cultivation and forest going. This year there has been a large harvest of a fruit called 'Mac Jong' which is found in the deep forest and valuable on the international market and popular in Cambodia and Vietnam.

Special outreach teams are tracing people in the fields.

Extreme heat has put strains on the operational team in the field.

Chloroquine tablets are challenging for children to swallow and have a bitter taste.

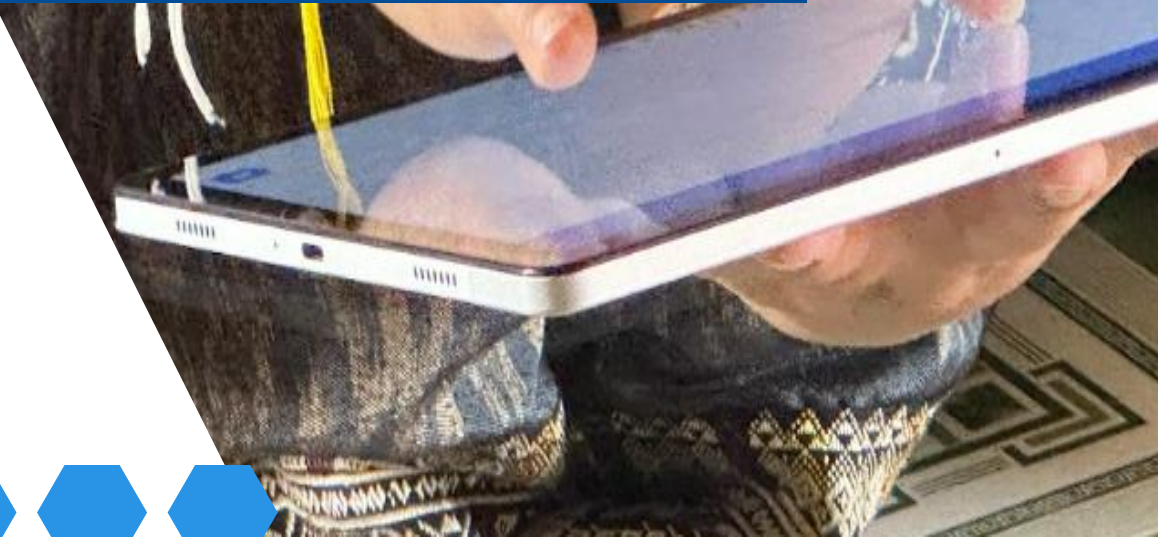




This year
Digitization of data collection using tablets is being piloted in two districts,



to increase efficiencies and facilitate data analysis.

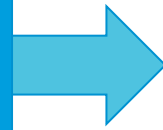


Changes to Policy & Plans



Testing Algorithm in 2024

Jan-May 2024:
Overtesting



Over consumption of RDTs,
If same trend continues, there is a need to procure at least an additional
100,000 RDTs = \$60,000 for 2024 & Q1 2025 (non-budgeted)

Old Testing Algorithm will continue to be
applied in Southern provinces

New Testing Algorithm is now applied in
Northern and Central provinces
(starting May)

ALL FEVER CASES (today or in the past 14 days)

OR

Any 2 of the following:

Other symptoms



Travel History



Elimination districts conduct malaria testing for:

Fever case

AND

Any 1 of the following:



CMPE already started implementing the new algorithm

Accelerator Strategies for 2025

Original Approved Plan

- 2024:
Pf AS - for 20,000 population
Pv AS - pilot for 5,000 population (adjusted to around 28,000 total population, 50 villages)
- 2025:
Pf AS - no planned strategy assuming that Pf should be eliminated
Pv AS - upscaled to cover a population of 25,000

Revised Plan (subject to GF approval)

- Based on the data, that there are still Pf cases in 2024 and the fact that Pyramax (PY) is effective against both Pf and Pv, while the Chloroquine (CQ) is only effective against Pv.
- CMPE & WHO agreed to:
 - Replicate the AS strategy of 2024;
 - i.e. Pf strategy for the majority of target communities while the Pv strategy for a small population, similar to this year.
- The exact target population can be identified in Q4 2024 based on the malaria data from the 2024 high season (May-Dec).



Change of commodities forecasting and orders and upcoming expiries will require additional funds as PY & PQ is more expensive than CQ;

GF approved the change in plans given that UNOPS and partners have a PSM plan to mitigate the risk of expiries.

Key Implemented Activities



Key Implemented Activities - Jan to Jun 2024

Bottom Up Planning

- For Q1 & Q2: conducted in March for Southern Provinces in Savannakhet; and in April for Northern and Central Provinces (online)
- For Q3&4: Conducted in June for Southern Provinces in Champasack; and for Northern and Central Provinces in Vang Vieng

Financial Training

- PR UNOPS conducted refresher annual training on financial management & compliance
- Conducted in June for Southern Provinces in Champasack; and for Northern and Central Provinces in Vang Vieng; back to back with BUP

Forecasting Review

- Conducted in May to revise the commodities needs in light of change in Acceleration Strategies and overtesting; resulting in changes to original approved plans and budgets

RSC Meeting

- Conducted in mid May
- Special emphasis on sustainability efforts
- All countries, including Lao, need to present in the next RSC (Nov) on sustainability efforts and transition plans

Desk Review

- CMPE started implementation of monthly desk review for provinces, similar to PR desk review over CSOs, to enhance data quality and completeness through verification of paper based supporting documents against DHIS2

Support to M&E System

- PR continues to support M&E system for the grant through:
 - Training to provinces on M&E during first BUP meeting;
 - Desk reviews for CSOs on monthly basis;
 - RQDA trips to selected provinces

Sustainability



POR Plan

- A POR (Prevention of Re-establishment) plan is required for a country transitioning to elimination.
- The development process was initiated in Q2, under the leadership of CMPE and WHO, and with the support of partners

POR planning will take several years. The process undertaken now is only the first of many steps.

Our immediate goals are:

- 1) propose a methodology for risk stratification that is tailored to the Lao context;
- 2) develop proposed interventions for POR areas;
- 3) draft a POR guideline by end of August.

Malaria Integration Roadmap

- The roadmap for Malaria integration was developed as a joint effort between the DCDC, CMPE, NCLE, FDD, CHSI, DHR, DHHP, and DPF. Coordination and technical support were provided by PSI, with further technical support from other partners.
- The roadmap is designed to complement ongoing and future strategic thinking around the transition from the vertical malaria control program to a more integrated, sustainable system that is capable of preventing the re-establishment of malaria once malaria is eliminated from Lao PDR.
- Strategic directions included in the roadmap will contribute to development of the next National Strategic Plan for Malaria (2026-2030) and plans for prevention of re-establishment (PoR) that are currently in development in 2024-2025.
- **It is very important to start implementing integration activities immediately; as decline in funding after RAI4E is certain.**

Audit & DQR



Targeted DQR - by LFA

Objective of the Targeted DQR:

Based on the request from Global Fund, LFA conducted a targeted Data Quality Review from 13 to 24 May, 2024, to assess and document the data quality and M&E system functioning of RAI program through a data quality review process that includes:

- a. District level data quality verification, and
- b. National and district levels M&E system assessment

Site Selection: districts mainly selected based on case load (BR) and FOCl responses (EI)

- *Elimination Districts:* Nakay District in Khammouan Province; Kaysone Phomvihane District in Savannaket Province and Xanasomboun and Pakxong Districts in Champasak Province
- *Burden Reduction Districts:* Xepon District in Savannaket Province, Lamam District in Xekong Province and Sanamxai and Phouvong Districts in Attapeu Province

Data verified: for the period October to December 2023

Report pending; however, anticipated findings in some districts related to chronic issues related to missing documents, improper filing and discrepancies between paper-based records and DHIS2 despite improvement as a result of CMPE and PR regular desk reviews and M&E support

Summary of Audit Findings 2023

Functional area	Audit finding title	Priority rating (high / medium / low)	Number of findings	Financial impact (US\$)
Finance	Excessive use of cash payments	Medium	2	



Summary of Audit Findings 2021-2023

Functional area	Number of findings		
	2021	2022	2023
Finance	12	5	2
Human resources	1	2	
Procurement	1	1	
Asset management		1	
Total	14	9	2

Unprecedented improvement in financial compliance on all levels; as a result of DCDC, CMPE and PR regular expenditure verifications (at province level) and compliance review at central SRs; as well as PR financial trainings and support and quarterly online financial meetings with provinces

Key challenges



Procurement Masterlist

Till now, seven months after start of RAI4E, the Procurement Masterlist has not been approved yet.

RDTs

450,000 RDTs were planned to arrive in April, but till now are not shipped due to delay in import permit

We are now below minimum stock and any further delay can lead to stock out and outbreaks

LLINs

33,000 LLINs were planned to arrive in April, but they arrived in mid July to MPSC due to delay in import permit

We will not be able to achieve the target for LLINs distribution for 2024 due to this delay, and the grant rating will be affected

AL

14,000 AL tablets were planned to arrive in March, but arrived in mid July due to delay in import permit

Upcoming shipments

258,720 RDTs
4,410 Artesunate
136,000 Primaquine
16 microscopes

are shipments planned in Q3, **if masterlists is not approved, they will be delayed and will pose risk of low stocks and jeopardize implementation**

Procurement Masterlist

We kindly request that the concerned departments in MoH and MoF facilitate the process.

Coordination should be enhanced to ensure that the required documents are submitted on time and followed up closely.

Flexibility is needed taking into consideration the nature of the programme.

CMPE will apply for 2025 masterlist in August, with all the changes in the policy and programme that we presented today, the masterlist will not match the approved budget.

PSM Chronic Issues

Chronic PSM issues continue to persist at all levels, despite efforts of improvement.

Big expiries in key commodities are expected this year and next year, which will necessitate additional non-budgeted procurement.

There is a need to:

- Strengthen CMPE's capabilities and leadership on PSM management;
- Revise forecasting methodology and tool; to ensure that declining caseload is factored in the new forecasting and the requests for procurement are adjusted
- Revise minimum stock policy;
- Monitor stocks at all levels to ensure that commodities are used based on First-In-First-Out basis.

UNOPS PR is currently updating the procurement manual of the RAI grant (the current one was developed in 2017); after which PR regional team will visit Laos to provide training on procurement and forecasting

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