



# Lao PDR Sustainability and Transition Roadmap for Malaria 2025 – 2035

Lao PDR

24th RAI Regional Steering Committee Meeting  
November 2024

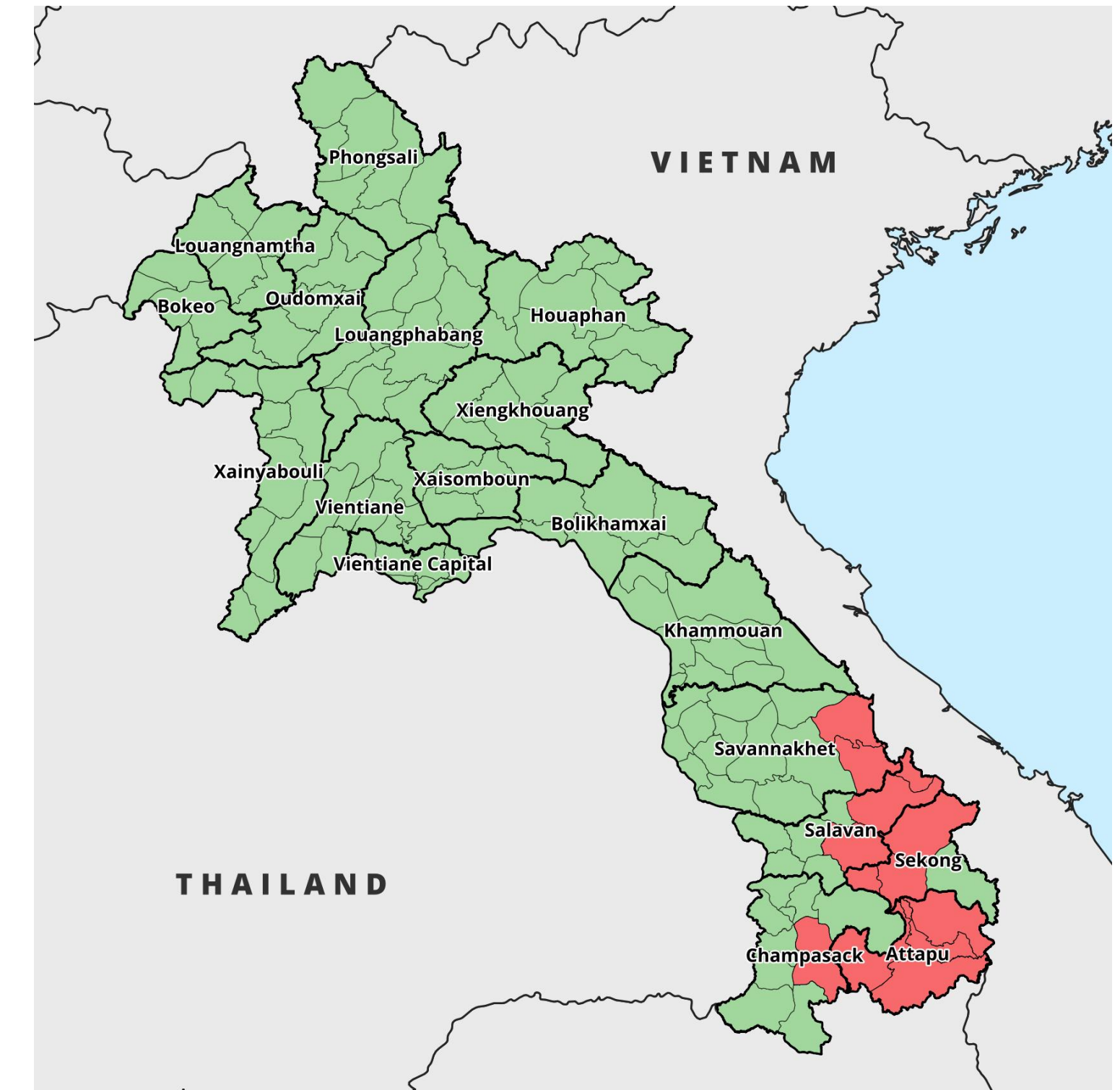
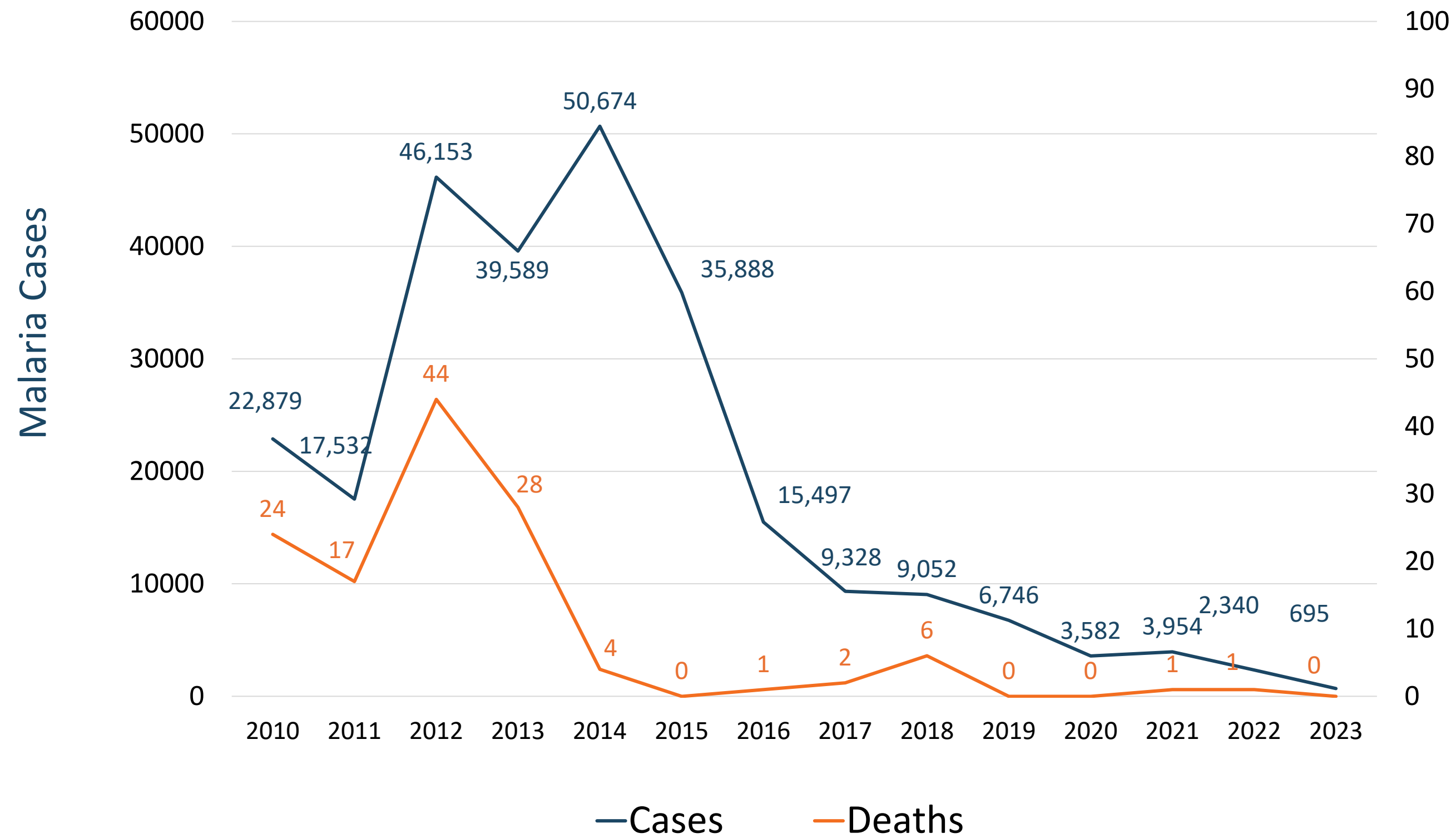
# Malaria Sustainability & Transition Planning in Lao PDR

## Outline of Presentation

- Background
- Objectives of planning
- Methodology for roadmap development
- Budget scenarios for 2027-2029
- Roadmap activities and timeline
- Conclusions

# Background

Lao PDR is made significant progress towards malaria elimination in the past decade



Burden reduction (red) and elimination (green) districts, as of 2022

# Background

## Prioritizing planning for sustainability and transition

- Global Fund request for sustainability plan complements planning already implemented
- Identify and prioritize activities to be funded in RAI5E
- Identify financing gaps for remaining activities and mechanisms for funding
- Ensure resources available to support and sustain malaria efforts beyond 2029

## Address current challenges to transitional financing for malaria

- GAVI financing for vaccines will end in 2025 adding to health financing gap
- Depressed national economy limits GoL's capacity to mobilize additional resources

## Strengthening sustainability while transitioning health financing?

- Strengthen systems and increase cost-efficiency through integration of malaria into UHC
- Strengthen GoL's and partners' capacities to apply innovative approaches for securing new investors and financing mechanisms for health

# Background

## Recent sustainability initiatives

Building on the approaches of the NSP, DCDC and CMPE, with the support of partners, have undertaken several sustainability initiatives, including through **strategic planning** and by **operationalizing integration**.

### 2018-2023

Strengthening the PHEOC to sustain malaria elimination and improve response to future public health emergencies

### 2022-Present

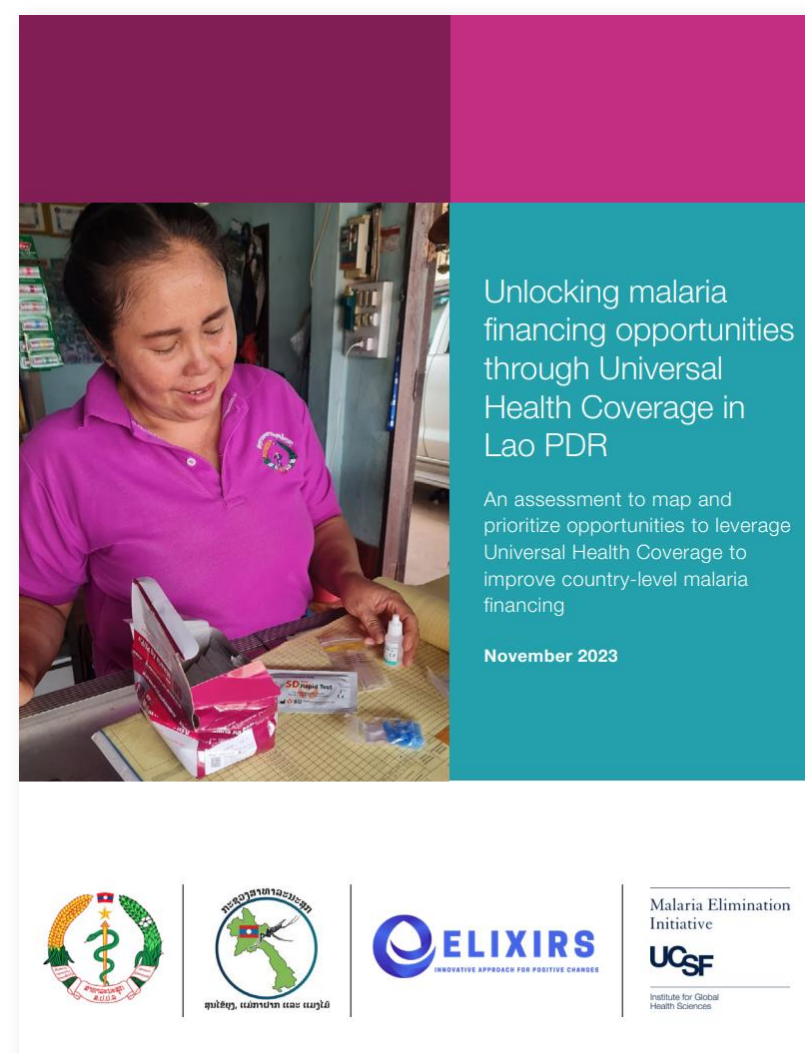
Expanding Village Malaria Worker (VMW) roles into integrated Village Health Volunteer (VHV) roles to strengthen primary care

### 2024-2026

Subnational malaria integration to enable the long-term sustainability of malaria elimination

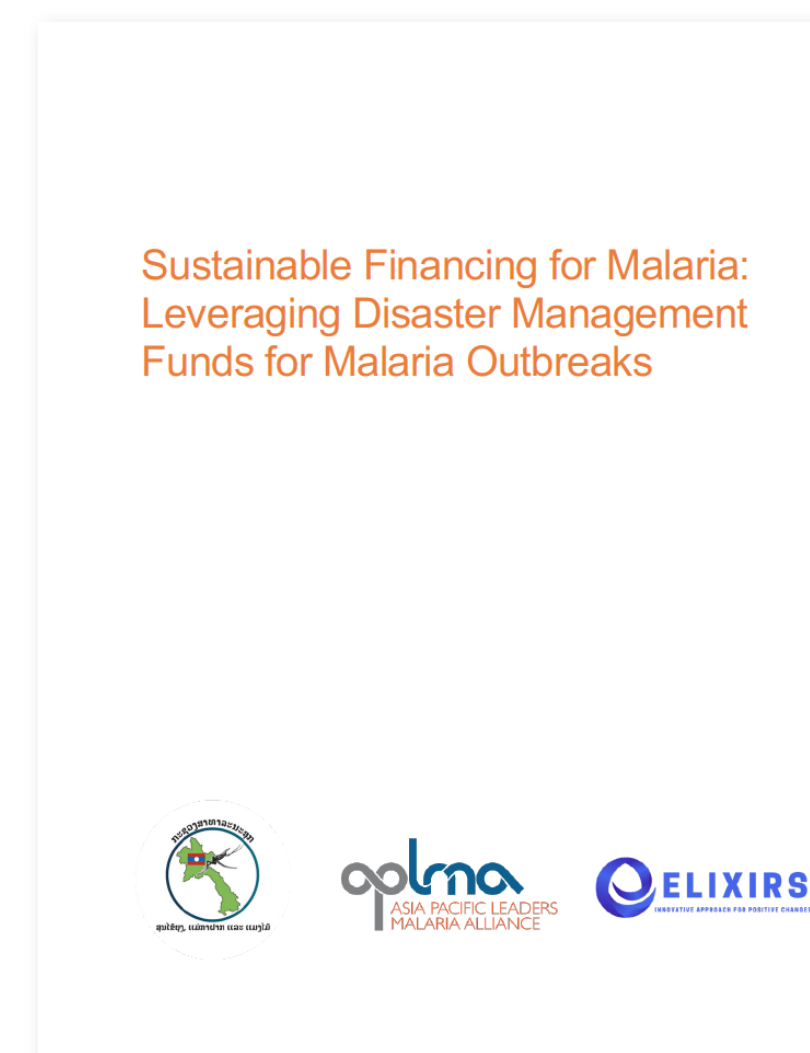
### 2023

Mapping opportunities for malaria financing under Universal Health Coverage mechanisms



### 2024

Exploring the integration of malaria outbreak response financing with disaster management funds



### 2024

Outlining the integration pathway of 8 malaria components into the general health system



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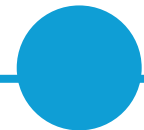
## Objectives of Planning Process

- **Identify key challenges to and opportunities** for sustaining and transitioning malaria elimination and prevention of re-establishment efforts in Lao PDR.
- **Develop a sustainability and transition roadmap** to identify actions and maintain accountability for progressing, attaining, and sustaining malaria-free status, including the required technical, operational, financing, and leadership components.

# Methodology for Roadmap Development

- **Desk review** of Lao PDR's malaria program
- **Sustainability and transition readiness assessment** of a broad range of stakeholders
- **CCM meeting** with key partners to discuss sustainability planning needs on 20 August
- A **Sustainability Task Force** was established and **takes ownership** of the process and outputs on 23 August

**Aug 2024**



**Sep 2024**

- Sustainability Task Force met to review the funding checklist and the **preliminary findings of the sustainability assessment report** on 11 September

**Oct 2024**



- Sustainability Task Force was **endorsed by the Minister of Health** on 29 October
- DCDC convened a **Stakeholder Engagement Workshop** on 15 October

**Nov 2024**



- **Sustainability and Transition Roadmap for Malaria (2025-2035)** was developed using assessment findings and workshop input. The Roadmap includes a monitoring and evaluation framework to track progress and maintain accountability.

# Malaria Sustainability & Transition Planning in Lao PDR

CMPE with support from UNOPS developed financing checklists for 2027-2029, including the following scenarios:

- 50% reduction in funding from RAI4E with support to maintain VMWs
- 50% reduction in funding from RAI4E
- 70% reduction in funding from RAI4E

In this process CMPE has only estimated how GF financing would be used and has not identified any financing gaps.



# Malaria Sustainability & Transition Planning in Lao PDR

## Global Fund budget scenarios (2027-2029)

### 50% reduction from RAI4E and maintain VMWs

- **\$16,186,546 to \$8,058,250**
- Supports CMPE and CSOs to cover critical interventions, like POR & case-based surveillance, as well as VMW services
- All VMWs are maintained under the supervision of CSOs and CMPE
- CSOs will receive partial funding
- Funding to DPF will be suspended; while MPSC will receive small funding for malaria commodities handling and distribution
- **Only 10% of health products (RDTs, ACTs, bed nets etc.) covered through 2029**

# Malaria Sustainability & Transition Planning in Lao PDR

## Global Fund budget scenarios (2027-2029)

### 50% reduction from RAI4E

- **\$16,186,546 to \$8,064,451**
- Supports CMPE to cover critical interventions, like POR & case-based surveillance
- All VMWs are integrated into DHHP by end of 2026
- CSOs will not be funded as their activities are linked to VMWs
- Funding to DPF will be suspended; while MPSC will receive small funding for malaria commodities handling and distribution
- Health products fully covered through 2029

# Malaria Sustainability & Transition Planning in Lao PDR

## Global Fund budget scenarios (2027-2029)

### 70% reduction from RAI4E

- **\$16,186,546 to \$4,996,241**
- Supports CMPE to cover critical interventions, like POR & case-based surveillance
- All VMWs are integrated into DHHP by end of 2026
- CSOs will not be funded as their activities are linked to VMWs
- Funding to DPF will be suspended; while MPSC will receive small funding for malaria commodities handling and distribution
- **Health products (RDTs, ACTs, bed nets etc.) partially covered (67%)**

# Roadmap Activities: Financing & Leadership

Activity	Target	Lead Agencies	Supporting Agencies
1. Identify malaria funding gaps to inform development of strategy to fill such gaps	Q4 2024	CMPE	
2. December Roundtable to include updated costing		CMPE	
3. December Roundtable to add donor transition as standing agenda item		MOH	MOPI
4. PMO/National Assembly publicly recommit to 2030 goal	Q2 2025	MOH	PMO
5. Establishment of National Malaria Elimination Task Force, chaired by a PMO official		MOH	PMO
6. Establishment of a multi-agency health financing taskforce		MOH	MOPI, MOLSW, NAPA
7. Develop cost analysis for budget advocacy		CMPE	
8. Conduct cost benefit analysis using 2023 Nakai outbreak as case study		CMPE, UNOPS	
9. Transition the Malaria Technical Working Group (TWG) into an expanded multisectoral task force	Q4 2025	MOH, DCDC, CMPE	
10. Develop and advocate for a malaria progress indicator to be added to the National Assembly Dashboard	Q4 2026	MOH, CMPE, APLMA	
11. Detailed activity plan, staffing plan, and budget for priority malaria integration activities included in the DCDC strategic plan		DCDC, CMPE	

## Roadmap Timeline: Case Management

Activity	Target	Lead Agencies	Supporting Agencies
1. Develop disease reporting mechanism for non-PPM private health facilities to ensure imported cases are monitored and managed during POR	Q1 2025	DCDC, CMPE	
2. Develop robust POR guidelines at national and subnational levels	Q2 2025	CMPE	
3. Develop formal roles, responsibilities, and costs VHV to engage in POR activities	Q4 2025	CMPE, DHHP, CSOs	
4. Support integrated subnational staff with training and implementation of POR	Q4 2025	CMPE, WHO	
5. Develop updated IEC/BCC materials for POR implementation	Q2 2026	CMPE	
6. Accelerate integration of malaria case management services including the transition of VMWs to VHVs	Q4 2026	CMPE, DCDC	

## Roadmap Timeline: Community System Strengthening

Activity	Target	Lead Agencies	Supporting Agencies
1. Identify active VMWs who can transition to VHVs	Q2 2025	CMPE, CSOs	
2. Develop a formal phased plan for fully integrating VMWs as VHVs between 2026 and 2029	Q2 2025	CMPE, DHHP, MCH, CSOs	
3. Conduct performance assessment of VMWs integrated as VHVs	Q4 2025	CMPE, DHHP, MCH, CSOs	

## Roadmap Activities: Health Products and Health Products Management System

Activity	Target	Lead Agencies	Supporting Agencies
1. Convene a meeting of all MOH departments to address challenges in effective health product management	Q4 2024	FDD	
2. Develop a single consolidated health product distribution plan, with input from all health programs to be managed by MPSC		FDD, MSPC	
3. Convene a multisectoral meeting to discuss possible approaches to future procurement of health products, and legislation required to enact international procurement mechanisms	Q1 2025	FDD	MOH, MOF, MOPI
4. Develop a comprehensive National Health Insurance (NHI)-malaria roadmap for the inclusion of malaria diagnostic and treatment services in the NHI's Health Benefits Package	Q2 2025	DCDC, CMPE, MOH, NHI	
5. Identify sustainable funding to support MPSC's critical role in health product management	Q4 2025	DCDC, FDD	
6. Develop a comprehensive cost analysis of malaria commodities to support integration of malaria in NHI		CMPE	

## Roadmap Activities: Program Management

Activity	Target	Lead Agencies	Supporting Agencies
1. Convene a multisectoral meeting to discuss possible approaches to future procurement of health products, and legislation required to enact international procurement mechanisms	Q3 2025	CMPE	

## Roadmap Activities: Laboratory Systems

Activity	Target	Lead Agencies	Supporting Agencies
1. Ensure CPME and provincial laboratory staff are trained and become proficient in conducting confirmatory PCR testing	Q4 2024	NCLE	
2. Establish a malaria PCR quality assurance mechanism to ensure accurate malaria diagnoses	Q1 2025	NCLE	

## Roadmap Activities: Vector Control

Activity	Target	Lead Agencies	Supporting Agencies
1. Maintain current level of entomological surveillance and monitoring to promote effective vector control as required	Ongoing	CMPE	
2. Explore financing options for vector control and entomological surveillance and monitoring beyond 2029	Q1 2029	CMPE, DCDC	

## Roadmap Activities: Monitoring & Evaluation

Activity	Target	Lead Agencies	Supporting Agencies
1. Establish mechanism to directly link data and threshold notifications at all levels to improve coordination and implementation	Q4 2025	DCDC	

## Roadmap Activities: Health Financing System

Activity	Target	Lead Agencies	Supporting Agencies
1. Maintain current health financing systems through end of Global Fund financing and then transition to MOH financing systems	Q4 2029	MOH, CMPE	

# Conclusions (1)

- Lao PDR faces **significant malaria financing challenges**, especially as projected beyond 2029 without Global Fund support
- MoH will take major steps to **mitigate financing risks** to malaria elimination by strengthening approaches to secure necessary funding
  - Establish multi-agency health financing task force to identify and drive new approaches to health financing, including private sector investment, debt swaps for health (debt2health), integrated resources from OneHealth and climate change movements among many.
  - Advocate to Government of Lao PDR to recognize donor transition as a key challenge to health financing and call for increased domestic resource mobilization
  - Garner highest level political commitments to drive resource mobilization



# Conclusions (2)

- **Health products** procurement and distribution pose significant challenges with reduced development financing and no international commodities procurement available
  - MoH to advocate for legislation to support international procurement mechanisms
  - MoH to establish a unified commodities procurement, storage, and distribution mechanism
  - MoH to advocate for financing to support MPSC to ensure quality products are available and ready for use
- Future malaria elimination and POR efforts will benefit from integration of malaria services into broader public health systems as guided by the ***Roadmap to Malaria Integration in Lao PDR, 2024-2030***
  - CMPE, DCDC, and DHHP to accelerate integration of malaria case management services including the transition of VMWs to VHVs
  - CMPE with support from WHO to develop robust POR guidelines at national and subnational levels and support integrated provincial and district staff with training and implementation of POR



**Thank You**