

Pre-RC meeting 4

Statement of I.R. Iran on “The increasing threat of vector-borne diseases: the need for an integrated approach”

**Mr./Madam Chairperson,
Excellences, ladies and gentlemen**

Giving our sincere thanks to WHO for organizing this Pre-RC meeting and its document on an integrated and sustainable approach to prevention, Control and elimination of vector-borne diseases, we agree that an integrated approach to VBDs is necessary for several reasons such as the optimal use of human resources, logistics and other resources.

Main activities on integrated management of vector-borne diseases

Since the malaria elimination program is one of the oldest executive programs of the MoH, Currently, the country is in the phase of Malaria elimination, and in recent years, the country has been requested a malaria elimination certificate from WHO.

In 2022, the local transmission of the disease in the country had reached zero for 4 years, however due to a variety of factors such as climate changes and floods in the southeast of the country exactly at the borderline with Pakistan, and the recent political changes in Afghanistan ensuing a growing influx of migrants into the country, again the Malaria local transmission occurred.

Also, Since Dec.2019 *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*, the vectors of arboviral diseases such as Dengue, Chikungunya and Zika, have been reported in southern and Northern parts of the country i.e. in Hormozgan, Sistan and Baluchistan and Gilan provinces, and due to the population movements, there is a possibility of flaring up outbreaks of the above-mentioned diseases.

The experience of integrating vector control programs in Iran has started since 2017. Considering more than a century of malaria program experience in the country, Aedes-borne diseases management program has been integrated in order to make the most benefit of the facilities, infrastructure, financial and human resources of the program.

Due to growing Malaria cases last year, we have allocated a budget as twice as before to address treatment needs, environmental improvement, case screening and to control the situation

We recommend the following actions:

- WHO technical assistance to countries to develop/upgrade an integrated structure and to use new technologies in vector control
- Holding joint meetings in order to strengthen effective cooperation between bordering countries for the best control of vectors and VBDs diseases also conducting joint applied research studies.
- Establishing an effective operational mechanism between Pakistan and Iran at high-level management of the two countries as well as the bordering provinces to carry out joint activities with

an aim to reduce malaria cases and prevent the outbreaks of Aedes-borne diseases such as Dengue, Chikungunya and other VBDs such as Crimean and Congo fever, etc.

- To Develop an integrated structure for vector-borne diseases in interested and responsible international health organizations such as the Global Fund and WHO in order to advance the common goals of programs and optimal assistance to countries.
- The possibility of taking advantage of national capacities of EMR states to hold international training courses with WHO support
- We stand ready to cooperate in strengthening and training to fill the technical gaps in the areas of laboratory surveillance, diagnosis, and vector control in neighboring countries.
- Establishment of a systematic surveillance between entomological and meteorological data can be helpful in achieving a low-cost and practical EWAR system

Dept. of Malaria and vector-borne diseases

Madam/Mr. chair, thank you for the floor.

**Deputy for Public Health
Ministry of Health & Medical Education
The Islamic Republic of Iran**