

MYANMAR

HEAD OFFICE	Yangon
WHERE WE WORK	South East Region of Myanmar – Kayin and Mon State, Bago East and Tanintharyi Region
PEOPLE WE SERVE	Under-served populations including IDPs, migrants and mobile populations
BENEFICIARIES	160,000
CURRENT GRANT FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS	\$1.3 million USD

BACKGROUND

In 2009, early signs of drug-resistant *P. falciparum* -- one of the parasites that causes malaria -- were reported in the Burmese states of Mon, Tanintharyi, and Bago-East. As artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs) offer unmatched levels of efficacy and tolerability in malarial treatment, the emergence of artemisinin resistant malaria in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region poses a significant public health risk. Past conflict and migration patterns have resulted in the Karen and Mon people in the region being isolated, with limited access to health services. The combination of lack of service provision and lack of community awareness of the risks and preventive practices related to malaria, present a significant threat to the containment of artemisinin resistant malaria.

CURRENT PROJECT

ARC is working to extend malaria control and artemisinin resistance containment activities in the Kayin and Mon States, as well as the Tanintharyi and Bago East regions. To reach these groups, ARC will follow the World Health Organization's, Health as the Bridge for Peace (HBP) model and South-South Cooperation among the Greater Mekong Subregion by facilitating connections among various stakeholders. Capacity building efforts will focus on service delivery, health management information systems, supply chain management, leadership, and governance. The project is being carried out in collaboration with the Myanmar Ministry of Health and the National Malaria Control Program. ARC and the Ministry of Health jointly signed a MOU in February 2014.

Project highlights include:

- Provision of universal access to malaria diagnosis and case management for more than 160,000 beneficiaries in previously uncovered areas in southeastern Myanmar.
- Training for 40 health facility staff and 261 community and mobile health volunteers to provide malaria diagnosis, treatment, and referral.
- Establishment of 14 "malaria corners" at high-volume border crossings along the Myanmar-Thai border to provide LLINs, diagnose and treat migrant workers as they travel between the two countries.
- Increase awareness of the malaria prevention and the importance of testing and treatment.
- Promote community involvement in community-based malaria case management using DOT.





- Provide universal coverage to at-risk populations through the distribution of more than 50,000 Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs).
- Build the capacity of local community based organizations to conduct malaria prevention campaigns and provide health care services.
- Several research methods will be used to achieve particular research objectives including:
 - A household survey on knowledge and practices related to malaria prevention and treatment.
 - A health facility survey on a range of quality of care indicators including provider practices and clinic supply management.
 - Exit interviews among migrant and mobile populations at key border crossing points, to capture data on demographics, health behaviors, and ease of access to services.
 - Qualitative research with village malaria volunteers on beliefs and attitudes related to health service seeking behaviors.

PREVIOUS PROJECTS IN MYANMAR

ARC is uniquely positioned to provide effective and timely assistance in Myanmar. From 1992 to 1997, ARC worked in close cooperation with indigenous communities in Myanmar's Kayin state, and provided health services for Kayin internally displaced persons in villages in Kayin State and the Tanintharyi Region. Since 1992, ARC has worked with refugees and Burmese migrants in Thailand along the Thai-Myanmar border and over the years developed an effective partnership with Karen and Mon leadership. In January 2013, ARC began a consultative process, co-creating 5-year plans for sustainable health solutions with the Karen Department of Health and Welfare, Mon National Health Committee, Karen Agriculture Department, Karen Education Department, Mon Relief and Development Committee and Mon National Education Committee.

LOCAL PARTNERS

Myanmar Ministry of Health, Department of Health including the National Malaria Control Program and State and Regional VBDC teams, and two ethnic health partners including the Karen Department of Health and Welfare (KDHW), Mon National Health Committee (MNHC).

MAJOR DONORS

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria
- UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) , UNHCR



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