

WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



ORGANISATION MONDIALE  
DE LA SANTÉ

EM ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON  
BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH  
Fifth Meeting

EM/5TH.MTG.ACMR/10

12 August 1980

Nicosia, 10-12 September 1980

Agenda item 8/b.

MALARIA RESEARCH PROGRAMME IN THE REGION

The regional programme for field research in malaria was outlined during the Fourth Meeting on Biomedical Research that took place in Tunisia in September 1979. The proposed activities and listed priorities for a coordinated field research malaria programme in the Region were supported by the members of the Biomedical Committee. The Committee also recommended that training programmes have to be organized so as to increase the competence of national scientists and technicians.

The following is a general outline of activities related to research and training that have been organized in the Region since the Tunis meeting.

A) Coordination

A scientific working group on malaria, formed by Regional Panel members met in Nicosia, Cyprus, from 27 to 29 November 1979.

The main purpose of the meeting was to review the malaria situation and assess, in particular, the present status and potential developments of malaria research and training. Relevant recommendations were related to a coordinated regional research programme and collaborative efforts in different fields of malaria epidemiology, control and training.\*

B) Research

1. Studies have continued in several countries of the Region in relation to the genetic aspects of the main malaria vectors.

2. Studies have been planned to assess the epidemiological impact of residual insecticides in different formulations in various countries. Of particular relevance is the study planned in Syria to assess the epidemiological impact of malathion in the concentrated emulsion formulation. Also cost-effectiveness trials with Pyrethroid derivatives have also been planned in Syria.

3. Recently, a project has been initiated in the northern semi-desert areas of Somalia with the support of TDR/Geneva. The aim of the trial is to assess whether it is possible to interrupt or to significantly reduce malaria transmission in these areas by the utilization of larvivorous fish (Tilapia). In other countries of the Region the utilization of larvivorous fish is either being assessed or considered.

4. Other research has been executed or planned in relation to improving existing operational equipment and antimalaria drugs utilization.

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\* The report of this Meeting is submitted as background document

C) Training

A training programme is under preparation in Sennar, Sudan, with the assistance of TDR/Geneva, with a view to training nationals from several countries of the Region in the assessment of P. falciparum response to drugs by the micro in-vitro technique. About 20 national officers are expected to participate in such a course. Following this course a coordinated programme for monitoring the response of P. falciparum to chloroquine in all countries of the Region will be prepared

As a general training in malaria control techniques and epidemiology, the Region has supported regional training courses held in Egypt (1979) and Iraq (1980). Moreover, fellowship and local training have continued to be supported by WHO