VORLD HEALTH
)RGANIZATION

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

ORGANISATION MONDIALE
DE LA SANTÉ

BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE LA
MÉDITERRANÉE ORIENTALE

SECOND REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON MALARIA ERADICATION

ADDIS ABABA, 16 - 21 NOVEMBER 1959

EM/ME-Tech.2/35

7 November 1959
ENGLISH ONLY

PRE-ERADICATION SURVEY (PES)

by

Dr. C.A. Alvarado
Director, Division of Malaria Eradication,
WHO Headquarters, Geneva.

1. Objective

A PES is an operation aimed at establishing the geographical extent of malaria in a given country or area, its epidemiological character, the vectors and their related ecology, the demographic and all other social, political, administrative and financial aspects which are relevant to the drafting of a complete plan of operations for a malaria eradication programme (MEP).

2. Methodology

A critical examination of all existing relevant information and the search for the non-existent in order to complete the collection and study of all basic data necessary for the plan of operations.

3. Policy

As the goal of a pre-eradication survey is a plan of operations (PO) for an MEP, this survey must be undertaken only when there is enough evidence that conventional and well-known methods for eradication (mainly residual house spraying) can interrupt transmission. If this evidence is not available, a malaria eradication pilot project should be organized with the purpose of establishing ways and means of obtaining such evidence; and only when the results are positive should the PES take place. On the other hand, once the PO is ready, the logical aftermath is the implementation of the MEP, if not, the PES has no value.

Therefore, the government of the country must be quite willing to undertake eradication and be fully aware of all its domestic and international implications.

4. Organization of the survey work

As a prelude to an MEP, a PES must be a national commitment, with or without the help of WHO. In the former case, WHO normally assists by providing one or more international teams (Pre-eradication Survey Teams: PEST) but the country should provide the best of its existing personnel (where they exist) to expedite the operation and secure its successful completion. The best arrangement, when possible, is the appointment by the Government of a "Survey and Planning Commission", as a co-ordinating body for all the field and cabinet operations.

Basically, the work of a PES must observe the following steps:

(a) collection of existing data (research on published papers; on official reports, interviews with experienced people with private files, etc.);

(b) screening and critical appraisal of existing data, and selection of data which may be useful;

(c) classification of selected data by technical items, i.e.

(i) malaria morbidity and mortality;
(ii) malaria surveys and indexes;
(iii) entomological findings, etc.

(d) the use of cards for "Cardex Type" classification of (c) by geographical units, preferably by secondary political division*, with indication of locality and date. A practical procedure is the use of sets of cards of different colours for each secondary political division; the same colour for each technical item, and a code number given to political divisions, primary and secondaries. Another card for each secondary division must contain geographic, demographic, and meteorological data. On the same card or on another information should be registered pertaining to medical and public health services, number of practitioners, and other facilities which could be of interest for the PO (schools, post offices, etc.). The study of the classified data will show where the essential information is lacking and of which categories this is. Consequently the field teams can go to look for it.

---

* "Primary" political divisions are states or provinces; secondary are the subsequent political divisions of the primaries.

"The emphasis is not so much on malaria intensity as on its distribution" (Sixth Report of Expert Committee on Malaria). For the mapping of the malarious areas it is neither intended to fill every card with all the pertinent data nor to make a careful inventory of the malaria elements for every political division. The main concern must be the exact determination of the "contours" of the "transmission area" and its epidemiological character. Sometimes a clear environmental pattern of transmission can be established, which facilitates the progress of mapping the localities having similar patterns without having to repeat in each one all the routine survey procedures. Where there are areas of different epidemiological and entomological character, an effort must be made to define the boundaries of each one.

5. Drafting of the Plan of Operations (PO)

When all the basic data are assembled, the second phase of the PES is begun: the drafting of the plan of operations.

Malaria eradication is an activity which cannot be successfully carried out unless it is based on perfect planning and adequate technical advice. If not, eradication campaigns will constitute a risk too great to be chanced either by the Government or by the cooperating Agencies concerned.

The PO should be prepared by the "Survey and Planning Commission" assisted by WHO advisers. This document should state the feasibility, the extent, the nature and the cost of the entire programme; the strategy and the methods to be used in all its phases; the legislation to be applied; the position, set-up and authority of the malaria eradication service; the reporting and logistic system; the quality, amount and sources of supply and equipment; the training facilities; the pattern for coordination with other official agencies, and all the other technical, administrative, political (i.e. Federa and State responsibilities) and financial implications.

The PES ends its mission when the final draft of the PO is ready to be presented to the Government and to the International Agencies concerned.