Vector Control in Humanitarian Emergencies

Mission Statement
To reduce human suffering and death from vector-borne diseases in complex operating environments by:

a) improving delivery, uptake, integration and evaluation of existing vector surveillance and control tools;

b) facilitating the development of an evidence-base and uptake of supplementary and emerging tools.

“More “problem solving” instead of just “solution implementing”.”
War and persecution have driven more people from their homes than at any time since records began, with over 65 million persons, half of them children, now displaced worldwide.

If the world’s forcibly displaced were a country it would be the size of the United Kingdom in 2015 and counting since given the urbanisation and ecological migration.
Progress on Proposed Workplan

  ▪ Representatives from RBM, UNICEF, MSF, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the MENTOR Initiative. Several other partners such as WHO, Global Fund, UNHCR, and other relief agencies and NGOs are also engaged.

► First meeting: 14-15 September 2017, Basel Switzerland

► Development of platform for information sharing (ongoing)

► Broader consultative stakeholder meeting in Q2/Q3
Humanitarian Crises

- insecurity & lack of access;
- insufficient human resources;
- weak or broken supply chain;
- destroyed infrastructure;
- weak coordination;
- inadequate funding;
- Lack of communication between Shelter, WASH, Health clusters; and
- poor data & information management.
Joint assessment of VBD risks in emergency settings, and technical response planning advice. Yemen is first example of published joint assessment. We will explore how we can fund and deliver more of these.
Supporting monitored / alternating (Actelic and Ficam) roll out of IRS in VBD many current emergency settings

We are ready to explore with commercial, donor and implementing partners ways to improve timeliness and availability of insecticide and equipment for emergency partners.

Emergency settings provide a rigorous testing ground for IRS equipment and insecticides. We are ready to explore with interested commercial partners new opportunities for field evaluation of new/novel equipment.
Improving appropriate LLIN type uptake, delivery and monitoring

Piloting and monitoring PBO LLINs in camp settings with advanced pyrethroid resistance in South Sudan.

Monitoring large scale use of close mesh LLINs for Leishmaniasis control in Syria.

Emergency settings, especially camps, provide unique settings for potential tool evaluation. For those prepared to take risks.
Larval Source Management: Needs in emergencies

- Advice on larvicide and growth regulator use in emergencies.
- Evidence from pilots and evaluation of large scale application methods.
Seeking to scale up usage and evidence base of combined emergency shelter and vector control solutions
Need for new tools types / modes of application suited to emergency contexts

► VC in emergency settings needs to respond to a range of insect disease vectors (mosquitoes, sandflies, filth flies, fleas, ticks etc)

► Spacial repellents in camp settings & urban settings under conflict?

► New /improved delivery systems for IRS, larval control, to reach large or difficult to access areas, or >impact.
Challenges

► Regulatory blocks
► Stockpiles
  - Who will fund?
► Siloed actors
► Situational analyses not joint or shared
► Mandate fights
Opportunities

► Clear definition of roles and responsibilities is vital to help ensure coordination (e.g. within a cluster-based system) and break down silos;
► Utilize multiple platforms (e.g. WASH, Shelter, non-food items) as VC needs in emergencies are often bigger than the health (malaria) platform
► Flexible funding is needed for the rapid deployment of Technical Assistance;
► Strengthening community health systems in fragile settings is key to ensure population having access to services;
► Technical Assistance needs a longer-term in-country solution through partners;
  ▪ Local actors are key to effective response before and after the emergency;
  ▪ the state of devastation will depend on preparation, preparedness and in-built resilience.
► Mission-specific deployment plans tailored to the local context.
► Where possible take services to populations (e.g. mobile clinics).
► Interest in the development of an emergency VC platform