Outcome of the Global Policy Roundtable on the Use of DDT in Malaria Vector Control

19–20 March 2013, Geneva
Representatives from governments, the UN System, research, civil society and the private sector gathered at the Global Policy Roundtable on the use of DDT in Malaria Control on 19th and 20th March 2013 in Geneva to chart the way forward to decisions on the use of DDT in Malaria Control by the Parties at the Sixth Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the Sixty-Sixth Session of the World Health Assembly in 2013. The event took place upon the invitation of Biovision Foundation, the Millennium Institute, UNEP Chemicals and the Global Alliance for Alternatives to DDT. The following statement and recommendations received broad support amongst participants.

Preamble

The Global Policy Roundtable on the Use of DDT in Malaria Control,

Recalling the goal of reducing and ultimately eliminating the use of DDT, as noted in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and reaching the Millennium Development Goal of halting and beginning to reverse the incidence of malaria,

Mindful about the urgent and continued need to control malaria and replacing DDT through safe, effective and affordable alternatives,

Recognizing the need to catalyse and expedite progress in the development, deployment and evaluation of locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives to DDT by setting an internationally agreed target to have these alternatives in place by 2020, with a view to meeting the Stockholm Convention goal of reducing and ultimately eliminating the use of DDT,

Recognizing also that a global road map to achieve the target on alternatives to DDT can enable actions and partnerships to thrive,

Acknowledging that a sustainable transition from DDT has multiple benefits, including enhancing the range of options for vector control available in order to cope with emerging vector resistance patterns and support an effective malaria control,

Recognizing that continuous monitoring and evaluation of progress towards meeting agreed goals and targets are a basis for accountability,

Recognizing also the need to enhance and strengthen the implementation of the Integrated Vector Management (IVM) and the exchange and documentation of best practices on this matter,

Noting that the periodic assessment by the World Health Organization (WHO) is one of the key sources of information on human health impacts of DDT that should be better used to educate people and to review the findings thoroughly, and

Emphasizing that all countries and the international community should become fully knowledgeable of and strictly implement the technical policies and strategies of the WHO and the provisions of the Stockholm Convention when using DDT for indoor residual spraying.
Recommendations

It is recommended that the Sixth Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs),

Agrees on a target for alternatives to DDT
1. Decides to set the target for locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives to be available to all Parties no later than 2020, with a view to meeting the goal of reducing and ultimately eliminating the use of DDT as agreed in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and in accordance with the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development Plan of Implementation and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management aiming to achieve by 2020 that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment;

Establishes a road map to achieve the target on alternatives to DDT and the goal of the Stockholm Convention related to DDT
2. Requests the Secretariat, in consultation with the Global Alliance for Alternatives to DDT1 and the DDT Expert Group, to develop a road map to assist Parties in meeting the target for alternatives to be available to all Parties no later than 2020 and delivering the goal of reducing and ultimately eliminating the use of DDT as agreed in the Stockholm Convention, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting;

3. Considers that in support of the development of the road map, as outlined in paragraph 2 above, attention should be given to:
   a) Availability of locally safe, effective and affordable chemical and non-chemical alternatives to DDT;
   b) Exchanging and documenting best practices to assist the development of locally appropriate Integrated Vector Management (IVM) plans;
   c) Life-cycle costs and acceptability of DDT and alternatives;

4. Requests the Stockholm Convention Regional Centres for Capacity Building and Transfer of Technology, and invites the World Health Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme to support the development of the road map;

Ensures adequate funding and technical assistance
5. Invites Parties to encourage regional and intersectoral collaboration to advance malaria control objectives, both public and private, at all levels, especially in education, health, agriculture, economic development and the environment, in accordance with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/66/289;

6. Requests the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention to give priority to the funding of the road map;

7. Calls upon all donors of malaria control programmes:
   a) To give priority to the development, deployment and evaluation of safe, effective and environmentally sound alternatives to DDT for malaria vector control, including non-chemical alternatives;
   b) To support the work of the Global Alliance for Alternatives to DDT;

8. Requests the Secretariat to assess the countries’ ability to comply with the required guidelines for the use of DDT in Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) also with a view to providing input to future revisions of WHO guidelines on the use of DDT in IRS.

1) Global Alliance for the Development and Deployment of Products, Methods and Strategies as Alternatives to DDT

Information and training is crucial for effective Malaria Control and has to be available for all people, like here in Malindi.
©Flurina Wartmann/Biovision
It is recommended that the Sixty-Sixth Session of the World Health Assembly, e.g. under provisional agenda item "66.3 Malaria".

1. **URGES Member States:**
   (1) to ensure that all DDT Indoor Residual Spraying programmes include activities for the sound management of DDT, based on the provisions of the Stockholm Convention and in accordance with the World Health Organization recommendations and guidelines on the use of DDT, including measures to prevent the contamination, in particular, of agricultural products with DDT;

   (2) to become fully knowledgeable of and implement the technical policies and strategies of the World Health Organization and the provisions of the Stockholm Convention when using DDT for indoor residual spraying;

   (3) to encourage regional and intersectoral collaboration to advance malaria control objectives, both public and private, at all levels, especially in education, health, agriculture, economic development and the environment;

   (4) to clarify and publicize the process for the up-take of local or national experiences into the World Health Organization recommendation for alternatives methods, tools, and approaches to DDT use in malaria control;

   (5) to enhance and strengthen the technical support for the implementation of the Integrated Vector Management (IVM) and the exchange and documentation of best practices on this matter.

2. **CALLS upon the international partners, including international organizations, financing bodies, research institutions, civil society, and the private sector:**
   (1) to give priority to the funding of the development, deployment and evaluation of safe, effective and environmentally sound alternatives to DDT for malaria vector control, and supporting the work of the Global Alliance for Alternatives to DDT;

3. **REQUESTS the Director-General:**
   (1) to assess, in light of scientific evidence, remaining risks to human and environmental health arising from the use of DDT in Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS), including in situations where the World Health Organization guidelines are met;

   (2) to explore options to reduce development, approval, and deployment costs of alternatives methods, tools, and approaches to DDT use in malaria control;

   (3) to reflect life-cycle costs and acceptability of DDT and its alternatives in World Health Organization guidelines;

   (4) to ensure that all DDT Indoor Residual Spraying programmes include activities for the sound management of DDT, based on the provisions of the Stockholm Convention and in accordance with the World Health Organization recommendations and guidelines on the use of DDT, including measures to prevent the contamination, in particular, of agricultural products with DDT;

   (5) to enhance and strengthen the technical support for the implementation of the Integrated Vector Management (IVM) and the exchange and documentation of best practices on this matter.

(2) in accordance with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/66/289;
Children and pregnant women are most affected by malaria.
©Peter Lüthi/Biovision

For further information please contact:

Ms. Stefanie Keller
Project Manager
Biovision – Foundation for ecological development
E-Mail: s.keller@biovision.ch

Further information also available online:
www.roundtable.ning.com

©Biovision, Schaffhauserstr. 18, 8006 Zürich, Switzerland
www.biovision.ch

Cover picture:
Children at the Malaria Day 2009 in Malindi
©Peter Lüthi/Biovision

Design: Binkert Partner, Zurich

In association with: