

# Australia China Papua New Guinea Pilot Cooperation on Malaria Control Project

## Mid-Term Review: Joint Management Response

The Australia-China-PNG Pilot Cooperation on Malaria Control Project is supported by a strong three-country partnership. The project addresses a shared regional priority of promoting health security in the region, in this instance through high quality malaria diagnosis. All three partner governments provide in-kind contributions (personnel, facilities and equipment), which is underpinned by Australian aid funding.

The project underwent an independent mid-term review (MTR) between March and May 2018, which was co-designed by representatives from each partner country. The purpose of the MTR was to verify the technical outcomes, review the trilateral cooperation arrangement which underpins this project, and make technical, cooperation and management recommendations for the remaining time of the project, as well as for potential ongoing or broader partnerships between the countries.

The Joint Project Working Group (JPWG) provides strategic oversight and high-level governance to the Project and includes representatives from the three partner governments. In June 2018, the JPWG reviewed and accepted the MTR report and its recommendations. The JPWG gave approval for its publication.

### Recommendations

*Recommendation 1: Strengthening outcomes-focused monitoring and evaluation, risk management, long term sustainability, gender and social inclusion under the Project*

All three governments accept this recommendation and work has begun on implementation.

*Recommendation 2: Strengthening training under the Project*

All three governments accept this recommendation in principle, noting specific sub-recommendations need to be considered by the Project Technical Directors and Technical Advisors. Work has begun to implement this recommendation through a training sub-working group.

*Recommendation 2i: Design of Communication Strategy for the Project*

All three governments accept this recommendation and work has begun on implementation through a communications sub-working group.

*Recommendation 3: Extension of current Project*

All three governments accept this recommendation and agreed to an extension of the Project to the end of 2019. This has been implemented through an extension of the Subsidiary Arrangement.

*Recommendation 4: Support for a new cooperation model with retains the existing model and approach, but gives fresh attention to new context and emerging opportunities*

All three governments accept this recommendation. The Government of PNG emphasises the importance of extending the project engagement into provinces and addressing the context of the malaria resurgence in building readiness for pre-elimination. A detailed scoping and design process will take place over the course of 2019 which will set the budget, timeframe and parameters of the new project.

*Recommendation 5: Commission a new design to extend the development benefits to PNG (with a focus on health security, undertaken by the partners, with technical support as required, in two parts – options paper and full design document)*

The Government of PNG accept this recommendation and note PNG's interest in commencing this process as quickly as possible.

The Government of the People's Republic of China accept in-principle this recommendation, noting that it will be critical to continue discussions about the new design.

The Government of Australia accept this recommendation and the principles set out within it.

Work has begun to implement this recommendation as detailed above.

*Recommendation 6: Partner government to consider detailed research and documentation of the development cooperation model to share lessons widely in the aid community*

All three governments accept this recommendation and recognise the opportunity to inform other development initiatives about the Project's model.

Work has begun to address this recommendation through the communications sub-working group.

*Recommendation 7: PNG, China and Australia to consider using the relationships and systems established through the trilateral project to explore other collaboration in PNG and the region*

All partners accept this recommendation in principle and agreed to discuss it further in the appropriate bilateral and trilateral fora.

*PNG to consider utilising the model of trilateral project donor cooperation with other donors*

The Government of PNG accept this recommendation and notes that PNG has some bilateral programs that may benefit from having a third party involved. They highlight the trust generated between institutions and partners through this project and the wealth of lessons learned as a key strength.