

56th DIRECTING COUNCIL

70th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF WHO FOR THE AMERICAS

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RESOLUTION

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PLAN OF ACTION ON ENTOMOLOGY AND VECTOR CONTROL 2018-2023

THE 56th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having reviewed the *Plan of Action on Entomology and Vector Control 2018-2023* (Document CD56/11), which proposes to accelerate regional prevention, control, and elimination of selected vector-borne diseases; expand integrated vector management; improve insecticide resistance surveillance and management; support opportunities in public health entomology education and training; and contribute to the achievement of the proposed targets of the PAHO Strategic Plan 2014-2019 and the Sustainable Health Agenda for the Americas 2018-2030;

Recognizing the Region's important achievements in the prevention, control, and elimination of vectors and vector-borne diseases, including mosquito-borne arboviruses and malaria; the elimination of onchocerciasis transmission in four countries; local elimination of the principal vectors of Chagas disease in several countries; and the elimination or control of other selected vector-borne neglected infectious diseases or their vectors in various countries and territories since publication of the WHO Global Strategic Framework for Integrated Vector Management in 2004;

Aware that despite these achievements, vector-borne diseases remain a serious threat to the health, well-being, and economy of peoples and nations in the Americas and, in some cases, have historically reemerged in areas where commitment and efforts against a disease have weakened; and furthermore, noting that accidental importation of new vectors to the Region has occurred in recent decades, as in the case of *Aedes albopictus*;

Aware that efforts for the prevention, control, and elimination of selected vectors and vector-borne diseases will necessitate: *a)* better coordination among all partners and stakeholders; *b)* review and updating of the education and training of vector control technicians and specialists, policies, and strategic frameworks; *c)* the use of new vector control tools and techniques; *d)* improved and sustained surveillance of vectors and vector-borne diseases at all levels of the health system; *e)* the sustained commitment of stakeholders; *f)* approaches tailored to local environmental and epidemiological conditions; and *g)* preparation to eliminate selected vectors and prevent the establishment of new vectors;

Considering that the recent WHO document on Global Vector Control Response 2017-2030—which offers a global strategic approach, priority activities, and targets for strengthening country and local capacity to respond more effectively to the presence and threat of vectors and the diseases they transmit during the period up to 2030—has a bold vision of a world free of human suffering from vector-borne diseases and aims to reduce mortality from vector-borne diseases globally by at least 75% by 2030 relative to 2016, reduce case incidence from vector-borne diseases globally by at least 60% relative to 2016, and prevent epidemics of vector-borne disease in all countries by 2030;

Recognizing that this Plan of Action is the platform for implementing the WHO Global Vector Control Response 2017-2030 and its strategic approach in the Region,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the *Plan of Action on Entomology and Vector Control 2018-2023* (Document CD56/11).
2. To urge the Member States, considering their contexts, needs, vulnerabilities, and priorities, to:
 - a) affirm the growing importance of entomology and vector control as a public health priority for the Member States of the Region;
 - b) review and update national strategic and operational plans or establish new ones towards vector surveillance, prevention, control, and/or elimination, investing in appropriate human and capital resources and new tools and strategies; employ tailored approaches that address disease transmission by vectors in the context of the social determinants of health and existing health care systems; and provide for stepping up interprogrammatic collaboration and intersectoral action;
 - c) heighten engagement in efforts to address vectors and vector-borne diseases, including coordination with other countries and relevant subregional initiatives in entomological and epidemiological surveillance, insecticide resistance surveillance and adequate measures to manage and prevent/reverse it, collaborative efforts in the monitoring and evaluation of new tools and technologies deployed in the Region, and dissemination of monitoring and evaluation results;

- d) guarantee the availability of key vector control supplies, including WHO-recommended insecticides and other biocides and treated insecticidal nets, vector traps, and other control tools, through effective planning and forecasting of national needs, utilizing the PAHO Regional Revolving Fund for Strategic Public Health Supplies for joint procurement, as applicable;
- e) strengthen entomological and appropriate epidemiological and public health services and align them with PAHO/WHO evidence-based guidelines and recommendations on vector surveillance, prevention, and control and on insecticide resistance surveillance;
- f) sustain the commitment of both endemic and non-endemic countries to combat targeted vector-borne diseases, including the sharing of vector surveillance information, where feasible; and strengthen appropriate sectors (e.g., agriculture, housing, infrastructure, environment) to help ministries of health combat vectors and the diseases they transmit, particularly in terms of collaborative planning and sustained or increased investments and provision of the necessary resources from those sectors;
- g) establish integrated entomological, epidemiological, public health, and vector control strategies and develop capacities to surveil, prevent, and control the establishment or reestablishment of vectors and the diseases they transmit, with broad community participation so that the process helps to strengthen and sustain national health systems; surveillance, alert, and response systems; and disease control and elimination programs, with attention to factors related to gender, ethnicity, and social equity;
- h) engage in regular dialogue on collaboration in vector control with subnational and municipal governments, local stakeholders, and communities living in conditions that make them more vulnerable to the occurrence and transmission of vector-borne diseases; further intensify efforts to educate public health professionals and technicians about vector prevention and control, and to educate and engage populations and occupational groups living in areas highly susceptible or vulnerable to vectors and the diseases they transmit;
- i) support engagement in the testing, evaluation, and monitoring of new or expanded entomological and vector control tools and techniques in the context of an organized operational research agenda that addresses important knowledge and operational and technology gaps in vector surveillance and control in the various work contexts of the Region.

3. To request the Director to:
 - a) support implementation of the *Plan of Action on Entomology and Vector Control 2018-2023* and provide technical cooperation, including capacity-building efforts in entomology and vector control needs for countries, to develop and implement national strategic or operational plans or establish new ones aimed at vector surveillance, prevention, control, and/or elimination and insecticide resistance surveillance and management;
 - b) coordinate regionwide efforts to eliminate selected vectors or the diseases they transmit and prevent the establishment of new vectors anywhere in the Region or the reestablishment of existing vectors in vector-free areas, in collaboration with countries, territories, and partners;
 - c) advise on the implementation of national strategic vector control plans, insecticide resistance surveillance systems, and effective management plans;
 - d) continue to advocate for the active allocation and mobilization of resources among countries, as well as globally, and encourage close collaboration to forge strategic partnerships that support the implementation of national, subregional, and regional efforts, including populations and occupational groups living in hard-to-reach locations and vulnerable conditions;
 - e) employ entomologically and epidemiologically tailored approaches which address the social determinants of health that hinder vector control and elimination, improve interprogrammatic collaboration, and facilitate intersectoral action;
 - f) report to the Governing Bodies on progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action and the achievement of its targets at mid-term (2021) and at the end of the implementation period (2024).

(Fourth meeting, 24 September 2018)