









JOINT STATEMENT ON CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION ON MALARIA IN KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, TAJIKISTAN AND UZBEKISTAN

The Tashkent Declaration, "The Move from Malaria Control to Elimination" endorsed by abovementioned countries in 2006 put particular emphasis on situations in which there is a risk of malaria spreading between countries. The rationale for this Joint Statement, endorsed at the Inter-country meeting between mentioned countries on cross-border cooperation, held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on 1-2 November 2010 is to stress the need to establish cross-border cooperation in order to promote and facilitate joint efforts aimed at malaria elimination in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and prevention of reintroduction of malaria transmission in Kazakhstan.

We, the joint signatories of this statement:

- remain fully committed to the principles expressed in the Tashkent Declaration on issues related to malaria elimination and cross-border cooperation;
- agree to take all necessary steps to solve common malaria-related issues in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and prevention of reintroduction of malaria transmission in Kazakhstan, with particular emphasis on border areas;
- call upon the World Health Organization (WHO) to continue to take the lead in the strategic coordination and technical guidance of malaria elimination programmes in mentioned countries;
- call upon WHO, Global Fund and other partners to continue supporting the Ministries of Health of the countries in their efforts towards implementing the national anti-malaria programmes with the stated goals;
- underline the need to streamline the approaches and improve coordination mechanisms for malaria elimination by all parties concerned (governmental bodies, international agencies, non-governmental and community-based organizations and the private sector) at both inter-country and country levels.

We recommend that

- focal points be identified for each country to assist in the coordination of crossborder issues related to malaria elimination and prevention of reintroduction in border areas:
- an inter-country working group be established, composed of managers and national counterparts representing all levels and local WHO staff, in order to assist in planning, implementing and evaluating malaria elimination activities and prevention of reintroduction of malaria in border areas of the countries;
- operational modalities be established for regular and timely exchange of information on malaria, particularly in border areas;
- joint action plans be developed to synchronize and harmonize malaria elimination activities and prevention of reintroduction in border areas;
- information exchange be given of any unusual situations related to malaria in border areas of the countries;
- action be taken to create greater awareness of the successes of malaria elimination programmes
- and to coordinate the mobilization of additional resources to support the countries' malaria elimination efforts.

