



JOINT STATEMENT ON CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION ON MALARIA IN TAJIKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN

The Tashkent Declaration, "The Move from Malaria Control to Elimination" endorsed by Tajikistan in 2005 and the Kabul Declaration "Health for All. Health by All: Communicable Diseases Recognize No Borders" endorsed by Tajikistan and Afghanistan 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 Tajikistan and Afghanistan on cross-border cooperation, held in Kurgan-Tube, Tajikistan, 11-13 October 2010 is to stress the need to establish cross-border cooperation in order to promote and facilitate joint efforts aimed at malaria control and elimination in Afghanistan and prevention of reintroduction of malaria transmission in Tajikistan.

We, the joint signatories of this statement:

- remain fully committed to the principles expressed in the Tashkent and Kabul Declarations on issues related to malaria control and elimination and cross-border cooperation;
- agree to take all necessary steps to solve common malaria-related issues in Tajikistan and Afghanistan, with particular emphasis on border areas, since cross-border cooperation on malaria remains a priority public health issue for both countries;
- call upon the World Health Organization (WHO) to continue to take the lead in the strategic coordination and technical guidance of malaria control and elimination programmes in Tajikistan and Afghanistan;
- call upon WHO, donors and other partners to continue supporting the Ministries of Health of the two 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 control and 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 cross-border issues related to malaria control and elimination;
- an inter-country working group be established, composed of national counterparts representing all levels and local WHO staff, as well as partners and interested parties in order to assist in planning, implementing and evaluating malaria control and elimination activities in border areas of both 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 control and elimination activities in border areas;
- information exchange be given of any unusual situations related to malaria in border areas of the two countries;
- action be taken to create greater awareness of the successes of malaria control and elimination programmes and to coordinate the mobilization of additional resources to support the countries' malaria control and elimination efforts;
- the possibility of rendering assistance by Tajikistan to Afghanistan in strengthening human resource capacities, implementing preventive activities and improving research capabilities for malaria control and elimination in border areas, be explored, in collaboration with WHO
- support in organizing coordination meetings on malaria control and its elimination in border areas between the two countries on a regular basis;
- to develop project proposals to the Global Fund on enhancing cross border activities to control and eliminate malaria in the border areas.

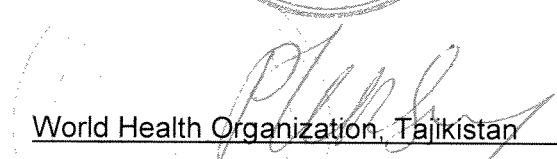


Ministry of Health, Tajikistan

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Ministry of Health, Afghanistan

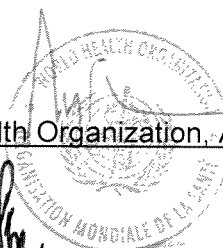
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World Health Organization, Tajikistan

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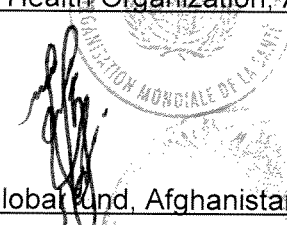
World Health Organization, Afghanistan



The Global Fund, Tajikistan

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The Global Fund, Afghanistan



*TEDLA MEZEMIR
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GFATM PROGRAM
MANAGER.*

Kurgan-Tube, 13 October 2010

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