

## 10. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DENGUE PROGRAMS

Except in those few countries where *A. aegypti* eradication is still truly achievable, the program strategy should be changed from one of eradication to one of control that is based on the actions outlined below.

- Generating political support for the program at the highest national-government levels.
- Generating legislative support for the program, to ensure that adequate funds are available to run it, and, where applicable, levy and collect fines.
- Integrating the program within the health sector, other sectors of the economy, and other pertinent nongovernmental organizations to enhance its sustainability.
- Emphasizing environmental management as the main vector control tool; the prudent use of insecticides should only be undertaken when physical methods are impractical, and biological control methods should only be pursued if appropriate.
- Encouraging and incorporating the community's full participation in the design, execution, and evaluation of prevention and control activities.
- Continuing to monitor the vector population through appropriate statistical sampling procedures, in order to target control efforts and evaluate control interventions.
- Intensifying surveillance programs to prevent the spread of *A. albopictus*.
- Expanding the passive surveillance of dengue cases to a proactive program where fever alert, clinics, disease trend analysis, and early laboratory confirmation are used to detect early transmission.
- Developing laboratory capability utilizing the IgM-capture ELISA as the standard technique to support a laboratory-based surveillance network within individual countries or among neighboring countries; viral isolation capability also should be developed where possible.
- Promoting the medical education of physicians and medical care personnel in the recognition, management, and treatment of DHF.
- Conducting clinical, hematological, immunological, genetic, and virological studies of laboratory confirmed cases of severe dengue/DHF.
- Determining the important geographical, epidemiologic, and sociodemographic risk factors for dengue, and stratifying the infested areas by level of risk, in order to efficiently utilize available resources.
- Developing plans for emergency preparedness and response consisting of: actions to be conducted during the preparation, alert, and emergency phases; hospitalization plan; case management; and vector control, including both space spraying for rapid/temporary reduction of infected adult mosquitoes and source reduction for permanent control, plus monitoring vector susceptibility to the insecticides to be used during these periods.
- Utilizing information systems that integrate all pertinent data on the vector, disease, and risk factors, to aid in decision-making, improve the program, and provide future direction for the program.
- Initiating operational research projects of alternative methods and strategies of vector control.
- Periodically evaluating the cost-efficiency, effectiveness, and efficacy of prevention and control programs as a basis for adjusting program strategies.
- Providing continuing-education opportunities for program personnel.