

Senior Technical Specialist in Malaria Finance and Sustainability UCSF Malaria Elimination Initiative

The Malaria Elimination Initiative

The Malaria Elimination Initiative (MEI) works in partnership with malaria endemic countries and partners to advance malaria elimination policy and practice and is a globally recognized leader in providing intellectual and practical support for the elimination of malaria. The MEI is staffed with experts in malariology, epidemiology, entomology, advocacy, and program implementation, management, and evaluation, and has active partnerships with over 20 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia Pacific, and Latin America.

The MEI's Advocacy, Finance, and Sustainability (AFS) team works directly with national malaria programs, their partners, and donors to ensure the sustainability of the malaria response through research, policy, advocacy, and resource mobilization activities. The AFS Sustainability Model includes programs of work on: (1) **Malaria donor transition**: supporting countries in the transition from donor-supported to country-financed and managed programs, and (2) **Malaria budget advocacy**: strengthening domestic financing for malaria through sub-national leadership and advocacy.

Position Description

The MEI seeks a Senior Technical Specialist in malaria finance and sustainability to lead the AFS malaria donor transition portfolio. This position will lead transition and sustainability research, serve as an expert technical advisor to country and regional partners on transition and sustainability policy and practice, and build MEI's leadership and impact in health system sustainability. The Sr. Technical Specialist will advance new collaborations and build a growth strategy for the transition portfolio.

Current and anticipated projects under the management of the Sr. Technical Specialist include: (1) Providing donor transition planning and implementation support in Cambodia and Vietnam; (2) Leading health systems and finance research on priority transition topics in multiple countries, primarily in the Asia Pacific region; and (3) Providing training and technical assistance to country and regional partners on the AFS Sustainability Model and tools. This work builds on multi-year collaboration between the MEI, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, the Asia Pacific Malaria Leaders Alliance / Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network, and the national malaria programs in countries across the Asia Pacific region.

Key responsibilities:

- **Lead the implementation of donor transition research projects:** Develop a research portfolio aligned with malaria program and donor needs. Planned projects include evaluation of malaria program integration in Thailand and a multi-country study on community-level malaria health workers, with potential to expand the research portfolio to other countries.

- **Provide technical assistance and capacity building to country and regional partners on integration, health systems, health financing, and donor transition:** Work alongside regional malaria platforms to implement and scale-up the AFS Sustainability Model in the Asia Pacific region. Develop training materials and train partner organizations on use of donor transition tools and approaches. Lead technical assistance to countries on transition readiness assessments, transition planning, and other analytical support on sustainability, transition, and efficiency.
- **Provide expert guidance on policy development and implementation for donor transition:** Serve as the MEI lead on transition and sustainability, providing expert technical and policy guidance on financing, donor transition, and health system topics.
- **Collaborate across multiple countries and in the broader global health community on donor transition:** Build partnerships with national malaria programs and other government, donor, and civil society partners.
- **Provide overall project management for the malaria donor transition portfolio.**
- **Identify funding opportunities and develop funding proposals:** Identify funding and growth opportunities for the donor transition portfolio, including expansion to other disease areas.

Qualifications

- Advanced degree in public health, health economics, development, or related field.
- Expert knowledge of health financing, donor financing for health, health systems integration, malaria, and/or recognized expertise in related areas.
- Strong qualitative and policy research skills. Prior experience conducting international health systems research in low- and middle-income countries.
- Demonstrated leadership in establishing and/or expanding research portfolios including mentoring international research collaborators.
- Demonstrated project management expertise working on complex initiatives in multiple international research sites.
- Experience working with Ministries of Health, National Malaria Control Programs, or other government bodies, particularly within the Asia Pacific region.
- Successful fundraising track record.
- Strong communication, writing, and interpersonal skills. Experience working in cross cultural environments, open-mindedness, and respect for cultural diversity.

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