

# Minutes of the LSM Task Team side-meeting on the sidelines of the 19<sup>th</sup> RBM VCWG Annual Meeting

**Date:** 17 April 2024

**Location:** Kigali, Rwanda

**Time:** 5-6 pm

## Attendees:

- Elijah Juma (Co-Lead, LSM Task Team, PAMCA)
- Eddie Thomsen (Co-Lead, LSM Task Team, UCSF MEI)
- See full list of 47 attendees in the attached MS Excel File

## Agenda:

1. Opening Remarks - Elijah Juma and Eddie Thomsen
2. Review of LSM Convening Outcomes at PAMCA conference - Elijah Juma
3. WHO LSM Guidelines Revision - Seth Irish
4. Proposed Activities for the Coming Year - Elijah Juma
5. Open Forum Discussion
6. AoB and Closing Remarks - Elijah Juma

## Minutes

### Min 01/04/2024: Opening Remarks

- Elijah Juma opened the meeting by emphasizing the importance of efficient use of the limited time available and introduced the programming for the evening.
- Elijah introduced Eddie Thomsen as the new task team co-lead
- Eddie Thomsen introduced himself and his role at UCSF MEI. He expressed his eagerness to collaborate and align UCSF MEI's increased focus on LSM with the task team's priorities.

### Min 02/04/2024: Review of Previous LSM Convening Outcomes

- PMI and BMGF convened stakeholders at a meeting in Addis coinciding with the PAMCA conference in September 2022 (attached)
- Elijah reviewed the key discussions and resolutions from this convening, emphasizing the need to evaluate progress since then. He highlighted issues such as barriers in LSM operationalization, regulatory challenges, and the need for clear use cases and guidelines.

### Min 03/04/2024: WHO LSM Guidelines Revision

- Seth Irish clarified that the planned upcoming updates are for the WHO LSM manual, not the guidelines themselves. He emphasized that current recommendations support larviciding and discussed the conditions under which it is recommended (few, fixed, and findable, with an emphasis on findable).

### Min 04/04/2024: Proposed Activities for the Coming Year

- Elijah outlined several activities including building consensus among stakeholders, establishing an LSM community of practice, conducting LSM landscaping analyses,

developing an evaluation framework for LSM, and strengthening partnerships for LSM implementation.

**Min 05/04/2024: Open Forum Discussion:**

- The floor was opened for wide-ranging discussions on the proposed activities and broader issues surrounding LSM. Key points included:
  - **Success Stories:** Multiple success stories were raised (India, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso) with suggestions that these successes could be replicated and efforts scaled up to enhance vector control strategies.
  - **Need for High-Quality Evidence:** There was spirited discussion about the evidence base for LSM and whether it is sufficient to justify investment. Members of the group emphasized the practical difficulties in conducting randomized control trials (RCTs) for LSM and questioned the specific thresholds needed for WHO recommendations. It was noted that IRS does not have a quality evidence base of the RCT threshold, yet it has a more convincing historical precedent. There was general consensus that it can work in certain circumstances, and we need to better define what those are. It was suggested that as part of a programmatic rollout of LSM, districts could be randomized to receive LSM in one year, with other districts serving as controls. The LLINEUP study in Uganda used a similar approach for evaluating new nets and produced evidence comparable to randomized controlled trials.
  - **WHO LSM Guidelines:** Seth Irish elaborated on the current WHO recommendations for larviciding, stressing that they are supportive under specific conditions. He explained the 'few, fixed, and findable' criteria (emphasising the importance of findable) and discussed the process of guideline development at WHO, which considers even observational studies in making recommendations.
  - **Programmatic Rollout of LSM:** Immo Kleinschmidt suggested that as part of a programmatic rollout of LSM, districts could be randomized to receive LSM in one year, with other districts serving as controls. He referenced the LLINEUP study in Uganda, which used a similar approach for evaluating new nets and produced evidence comparable to randomized controlled trials.
  - **Multi-Sectoral Collaboration:** The group highlighted the importance of multi-sectoral collaboration and it was noted that this topic will be included in the planned landscaping assessment aimed at documenting existing collaborations and their effectiveness, which could provide a foundation for broader engagement.
  - **Community-Based Implementation:** PMI Evolve shared insights from LSM implementations in Ethiopia, noting the dual benefits of malaria and Culex vector control which enhanced community acceptance and demand for LSM.
  - **Industry Involvement Concerns:** Members expressed concerns about the lack of industry involvement in the task team discussions. The larvicide industry is keen to contribute to LSM strategies and they should be included to ensure a comprehensive approach to product development and registration in Africa.
- These discussions underscored the complexity of LSM implementation and the diverse perspectives on how best to advance its application and effectiveness in malaria control. The call for inclusive, evidence-based, and collaborative approaches

was a recurring theme, highlighting the ongoing need for strategic partnerships and rigorous evaluation approaches to optimize LSM's role in global vector control efforts.

**Min 06/04/2024 AoB and Closing Remarks:**

- Elijah Juma thanked participants for their contributions and emphasized the importance of ongoing communication and collaboration. He mentioned that a contact sheet was circulated to ensure all participants could stay connected for future updates and discussions.

**Action Items:**

1. Circulate the LSM convening document to participants for further review.
2. Circulate the side meeting minutes
3. Investigate opportunities for task team involvement in the revision of the WHO LSM manual (Seth Irish)
4. Consider establishing a more inclusive community of practice that integrates experiences from the ground (Elijah)
5. Begin working on a more comprehensive LSM landscape assessment in Africa (UCSF MEI)
6. Engage industry stakeholders more actively in future LSM task team activities (Industry).

Being no further business to transact, the meeting ended at 6:30 pm Rwanda time.