

Communication

Residents

- What are the mechanisms and conditions to facilitate interface with the trial-site residents and basis for ethical, cultural, and social (ESC) collaborations?
 - Describe any previous interactions of the collaborators with the community at the proposed trial site.
 - Is there an ongoing relationship of trust with the public health agencies and institutional scientists?
 - Describe proposed methods for informing and involving the community in preparation for trials. How would community opinions influence planning for the trials?
 - Is there any precedent or other evidence for the likely effectiveness of these methods?
- How is community engagement for vector control normally conducted in the country?
 - What is the level of understanding by communities in the proposed trial sites regarding dengue and the role of mosquitoes in transmitting dengue?
 - What process is used by public health authorities for informing the community about vector control activities? Is a mechanism for community feedback in place?

Communication Plan

- A Communications Plan will need to be put into place for both proactive and reactive communications.
 - Have stakeholders/influencers in the country and local area been identified?
 - Has a Communications Plan been developed or is one in the process of being developed?
 - At early stages this may be only in draft, outline or partial form.
- What is the local working language?
 - Do the in-country collaborators speak this language or dialect? Visiting scientists?
 - Is translation available as necessary?

Working environment

Political environment

- **What is the political system in the country/location? Relevant issues may include:**
 - Levels of government (*e.g.*, federal/state/municipal)
 - Is there conflict between levels of government likely to impose difficulties?
 - Is the political system relatively stable?
 - Are there imminent elections that may disrupt civil service (*e.g.*, collaborators or regulators), or lead to significant shifts in policy (*e.g.*, on GE organisms)?
 - If the country/site has an electoral process, when is the next election that could have a relevant impact on the proposed studies?
 - Who are the relevant authorities in the proposed field site? What are their mandates (may include health/environmental authorities, general government, etc.)?
 - Describe the cultural leadership structure of the community (are there village chiefs, groups of elders, respected religious figures and other nongovernmental figures of respect and authority?).
- Is there a political will to embrace new solutions for dengue control?
 - Evidence?
- What is the political/community history with introductions of GE organisms in the country?
 - What is the level of understanding by communities in the proposed trial-site region regarding genetic engineering?
 - Have there been previous interactions with non-governmental agency or advocacy group?
 - Components may include an overall plan/posture, key messages, frequently asked questions (FAQ) and other question and answer documents, and include local opinion leaders and third-party spokespersons.

ESC considerations

- If relevant, who has property rights at the proposed field-site location(s)?
 - Is there any risk that the research would displace individuals or communities at the preferred site(s)?
 - Is the proposed site located near to valued community resources or sites where vulnerable populations might be impacted by the trials (*e.g.*, hospitals, recreational areas, schools)?
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