

Capacity building activities of the African Institutions in Malaria Vector Surveillance: Review 2016

During the past 10 years, the coverage of vector control interventions substantially increased in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2015, an estimated 53% of the population at risk of malaria in Sub-Saharan Africa slept under a treated net compared to 30% in 2010 (WMR, 2016). Concomitantly, insecticide resistance evolved in many countries, threatening the efforts to curb down malaria in Africa and prompting to build strong capacities for vector surveillance.

To fulfil the crucial need to systematically monitor the development and spread of vector resistance to insecticides, the African Network on Vector Resistance to insecticides (ANVR) was established in 2000, including National Malaria Control Programmes (NMCP) and supporting research Institutions, under the coordination of WHO Regional Office for Africa. Subsequently, the Global Plan for Insecticide Resistance Management in malaria vectors (GPIRM, 2012: http://www.who.int/malaria/vector_control/ivm/gpirm/en/index.html) was developed by Global Malaria Programme (GMP) with full involvement of the WHO Regional Offices, and Roll Back Malaria (RBM). It provided an action plan based on a five-pillar strategy, with activities to be implemented in short, medium and long terms, including **Capacity Building in Vector Surveillance**. Following the same rational, capacity building is one of the key actions of the ANVR agenda, while Integrated Vector Management (IVM) work stream within the RBM Vector Control Working Group aims at fostering training initiatives and sharing the information on existing opportunities.

Through the years, ANVR provided invaluable support to African Member States in building their capacity and strengthen systems for malaria vector control. During its 14th meeting held in Brazzaville, 08th-11th November 2016, key achievements of the network road map 2016-2017 were reviewed, including those related to capacity building. In 2016, 217 national staff have been trained in entomology and mosquito control, including vector surveillance. Three levels of training were provided, i.e. basic and applied entomology to Health Workers, advanced entomology to Master and PhD students (figure 1). Though most of the training sessions targeted malaria vectors, some of them also targeted arbovirus vectors. Twenty training sessions were recorded, they were provided by 13 institutions located in 8 countries (Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Congo, Mozambique, Mali, South Africa, and Tanzania). The training languages were French, English or Portuguese.

Although substantial information on 2016 capacity building activities in the African Region has been collected during this 14th ANVR meeting, the training capacity recorded here may be underestimated, since there is missing information from some member institutions which were not present at the meeting. Further data should be collected, in order to better assess the current situation and identify the gaps in vector surveillance capacities of the African Region.

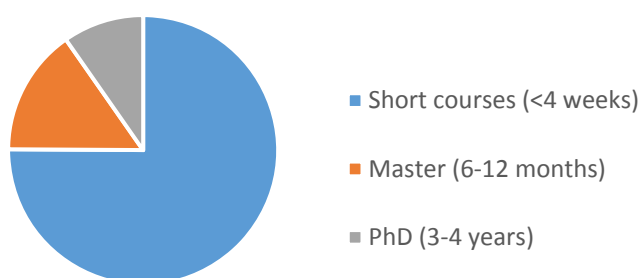


Figure 1: Distribution of trainees according to the levels of training