1. Background: Australia and China are strengthening cooperation on international development and joint responses to major development challenges in the Asia Pacific region. The Development Cooperation Partnership Memorandum of Understanding signed by the (then) Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Chinese Minister for Commerce in Beijing on 9 April 2013 identified cooperation on health in the region as one shared priority. Subsequently, it was agreed that malaria could be an area for early cooperation, given China’s significant achievements in tackling the disease within its borders, and supporting malaria programs in other countries for more than 30 years.

At the formal invitation of the Secretary for Health of the Government of Papua New Guinea (PNG), Australia and China agreed to undertake joint work on malaria in PNG in order to assist PNG’s efforts to accelerate malaria control and elimination. During a number of scoping/design missions to both PNG and China by delegations comprising Australian, Chinese and Papua New Guinean representatives, the following focus areas for cooperation were identified: improving malaria diagnosis within the PNG health services through strengthening laboratory services and operational research.

A detailed investment design for the Australia China PNG Pilot Cooperation on Malaria Control Project (the Project), incorporating comments from all three governments, was approved as final on 29 September 2014. A Subsidiary Arrangement to govern the management of the Project has now been signed by Australia, PNG, and China, signalling the commencement of the Project’s mobilization phase.

2. Project objectives: The Project has been designed as a three year (2015-16 to 2017-18), AUD4 million (PNGK8.19 million) program. The overarching/high level development objective of this investment is to contribute to reducing malaria morbidity and mortality in PNG, through effective cooperation.

The investment has two specific objectives to be achieved by the end of the project:

Objective 1: To increase the quality of malaria diagnosis in the PNG health services. Rationale: Although there have been some recent improvements, most cases of suspected malaria in PNG are treated without a diagnostic test. Improving diagnosis is critical not only to ensure effective treatment but also to give confidence to the assessment of the impact of malaria control based on reports of confirmed cases.

Objective 2: To pilot effective cooperation between Australia, China and PNG. Rationale: This investment represents a new way of Australia and China working together in a third country jointly to address a regional development priority. It is important to develop and trial an approach that meets all partners’ needs and delivers results.

3. Working with PNG’s national health, laboratory and research institutions: The Project will work closely with the National Department of Health (NDOH) at a policy and governance level. At the operational level, the Project will focus support on building the capacity of selected laboratory and research institutions, at both the organisational and individual level, working with national, provincial, district, and local level partners as appropriate.
4. **Project outputs:** There are four outputs expected to be achieved by the Project’s end date:

1. Provincial hospital laboratory staff trained to participate in national Quality Assurance (QA) processes for diagnosis.
2. The Central Public Health Laboratory (CPHL) has improved capacity to carry out its national reference laboratory functions in relation to malaria including quality monitoring of diagnostic products, QA of diagnostic services in provincial hospital laboratories and analysis of data.
3. Collaborative operational research on malaria diagnosis and treatment in PNG conducted by PNG research institutions and individuals, with Chinese and Australian institutions (and CPHL where appropriate).
4. Joint planning, implementation and reporting of project activities involving the three partner countries.

5. **Project principles:** The Pilot Cooperation has been designed taking into account three jointly agreed principles. It will:

   - support the **PNG National Malaria Strategic Plan (NMSP) 2014-18**;
   - complement PNG national and international donors’ initiatives; and
   - use resources drawn from each of the three partners.

6. **Project governance:** Governance arrangements of the Project have been developed to suit the innovative, three-country partnership with a range of implementing agencies, while also seeking aid effectiveness in minimising additional project-specific structures and ensuring efficient coordination with other partners.

   - **Joint Project Working Group (JPWG):** the JPWG will approve overall project direction and annual project work plans and budgets; review project progress every six months, and approve changes in plans or procedures needed to improve project implementation and impact; identify lessons arising in the cooperation process and ways to apply these, including in future joint cooperation. The membership of the JPWG comprises:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>Institutions represented on the Joint Project Working Group</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PNG</td>
<td>1. NDoH: Deputy Secretary/Executive Manager Public Health</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. NDOH: Manager, Disease Control and Surveillance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>1. Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM): Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC): Director General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>1. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Beijing: Head of Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. DFAT Port Moresby: Head of Development/Counsellor Health</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. **Project implementation:** Project implementation will be guided by Technical Leads within the Project’s key implementing partners. Technical Leads will be responsible for defining potential project activities, reviewing them against agreed project criteria, and developing annual workplans for the Project. Technical Leads will also review progress against each workplan on a quarterly basis and identify ways to improve performance of the Project. Technical Leads will consult and collaborate with members of the existing **PNG Malaria Technical Working Group**, chaired by NDOH’s Malaria Program Manager.
Technical Leads include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>Institutions and individuals involved in implementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| PNG     | 1. NDoH: National Malaria Program Manager  
          2. CPHL: Director  
          3. PNG research institutions: Director/Deputy Director |
| China   | 1. National Institute for Parasitic Diseases (NIPD): Deputy Director for Disease Control  
          2. Provincial disease control agencies and other technical experts selected |
| Australia | 1. Australian technical experts already working in CPHL and PNG research institutions  
           2. Australian research institutions/individuals selected for specific activities/studies |

8. Project management: Day to day management of the Project will be undertaken by a Project Manager based Port Moresby, and a China-based Project Coordinator (CPC) based in the NIPD in China. They will facilitate project planning, implementation and reporting in line with the direction set by JPWG members and Technical Leads.

The Project Manager is based within the Health and HIV Implementing Services Provider (HHISP), an existing contract between DFAT and Abt JTA (a managing contractor) for delivery of capacity development assistance, grants and research management, and procurement and logistics services to the health sector in PNG. The CPC will be responsible for coordinating the Chinese involvement and ensuring effective implementation, management and reporting for Chinese inputs.

9. Contacts:

Papua New Guinea National Department of Health  
Malaria Program Manager, Mr Leo Makita: leo.makita@gmail.com  +675 7067 3352

Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Port Moresby  
Senior Program Manager, Ms Linda Brown: linda.brown@dfat.gov.au  +675 7200 7842

Chinese National Institute of Parasitic Disease  
China-based Project Coordinator, TBC

Australia China PNG Pilot Cooperation on Malaria Control  
Project Manager, Ms Sarah MacCana: sarah.maccana@hhisp.org  +675 7361 8836