Regional Program of Action and Demonstration of Sustainable Alternatives to DDT for Malaria Vector Control in Mexico and Central America

Achievements
The Central America and Mexico Regional DDT Project demonstrated the efficacy of new integrated vector-control techniques that reduced rates of malaria without use of DDT or other persistent pesticides at demonstration sites in eight countries. It promoted the techniques throughout the region and disposed of stores of DDT. The project created a multidisciplinary approach, worked with doctors, epidemiologists, nurses, educators and politicians to fight malaria.

Legacy
- The project became a pilot program and an example for Demonstrating and Scaling up of Sustainable Alternatives to DDT in Vector Management, a massive effort to eliminate the use of DDT globally.
- It contributed to efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, the Roll Back Malaria goal, among others.
- The project achieved a high compliance rate in the communities where it operated as people took advantage of health studies. That impacted other health problems for the families in the project.

Fast Facts
- Achieved: Alternatives to DDT adopted at demonstration sites, reducing the amount of chemicals used for malaria vector control and lowering malaria rates.
- Where: Mexico and Central America
- Cost: GEF funds: $7.5 million; Co-financing: $6.4 million
- When: August 2003 to December 2009 (DDT disposal component ended in July 2011)
- Partners: Pan American Health Organization and national health ministries in Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama
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Publications:
Can be found at www.paho.org/English/AD/SDE/ddt-home.htm.

Outputs and Deliverables:
The project tasks included:
- The implementation, at demonstration sites, of effective, environmentally sound and sustainable vector control without DDT or other persistent pesticides.
- Replication of the methods in other parts of the world.
- Identification of DDT stockpiles in participating countries.
- Use, evaluation, and dissemination of effective alternative malaria vector-control strategies without use of DDT.
- Creation of a technical manual with information tailored to different species and different ecological conditions.
- Workshops for local health and environment personnel, community leaders and NGOs involved in each demonstration project.
- Strengthened local health services in areas of demonstration projects through the malaria-control techniques used.
- Disposed of stores of DDT.
- Increased national and local institutional capacity to control malaria with methods that do not rely on DDT or other persistent pesticides.
- Increased capacity for chemical analysis at laboratories.

Contact: www.unep.org/dgef or email: gefinfo@unep.org

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