

World Café session– Dengue prevention and control: Private vs Public?

Question 2: Of the different dengue prevention and control activities, which ones can be better done by the public sector and which ones better by the private sector? Why?

Host: Dr Tom Kiedrzyński

Discussion matrix

Dengue prevention and control activities	Public sector	Private sector	
		Profit	Non-profit ¹
Vector surveillance	++	- except that private contractors may be involved	Possible programme involvement
			Possible school children involvement Possible support from the agriculture sector Need to link with public sector surveillance
Vector control	As above	As above Reduced costs of products Possible local interventions by companies implemented locally.	As above
Community mobilization	++	Advocacy, incl. pressure on Govt Contribution to clean-up campaigns	+++
Media management	++	Sponsors	++
Legislation enforcement Note: issue of disposal of cumbersome rubbish (e.g. car carcasses)	++ Importance of involving local leaders	++ Possible contracts with private sector (law review, enforcement) Possible enforcement role at local level by locally-implemented companies	++ Local role
Disease surveillance	++	Private medical sector	If programme involvement

¹ Private non-profit sector includes churches, NGOs, sport groups, women or youth organisations, and more traditional groups like the aumaga (In Samoa and Tokelau).

Dengue Meeting Day (2008-11-27), Fiji Islands

		Should be part of the public surveillance system	
Case management	As above	As above	As above
Training	++	University involvement	++
Research	+?	++	

In summary:

There are quite a few areas where the private sector can be involved: local action of locally-implemented companies, sponsoring or various in-kind contributions. They can also provide contract-based services.

The whole non-profit private sector is particularly resourceful in the Pacific Islands and can be used for programme implementation, with special strength in community mobilisation and behavioural change.

There is nevertheless a need for harmonisation of surveillance and control activities, with well-defined established links between the private and the public sectors, and leadership guidance provided by the latter.