Next 10 Years: Progress and Challenges of Malaria Elimination in Oceania Countries.
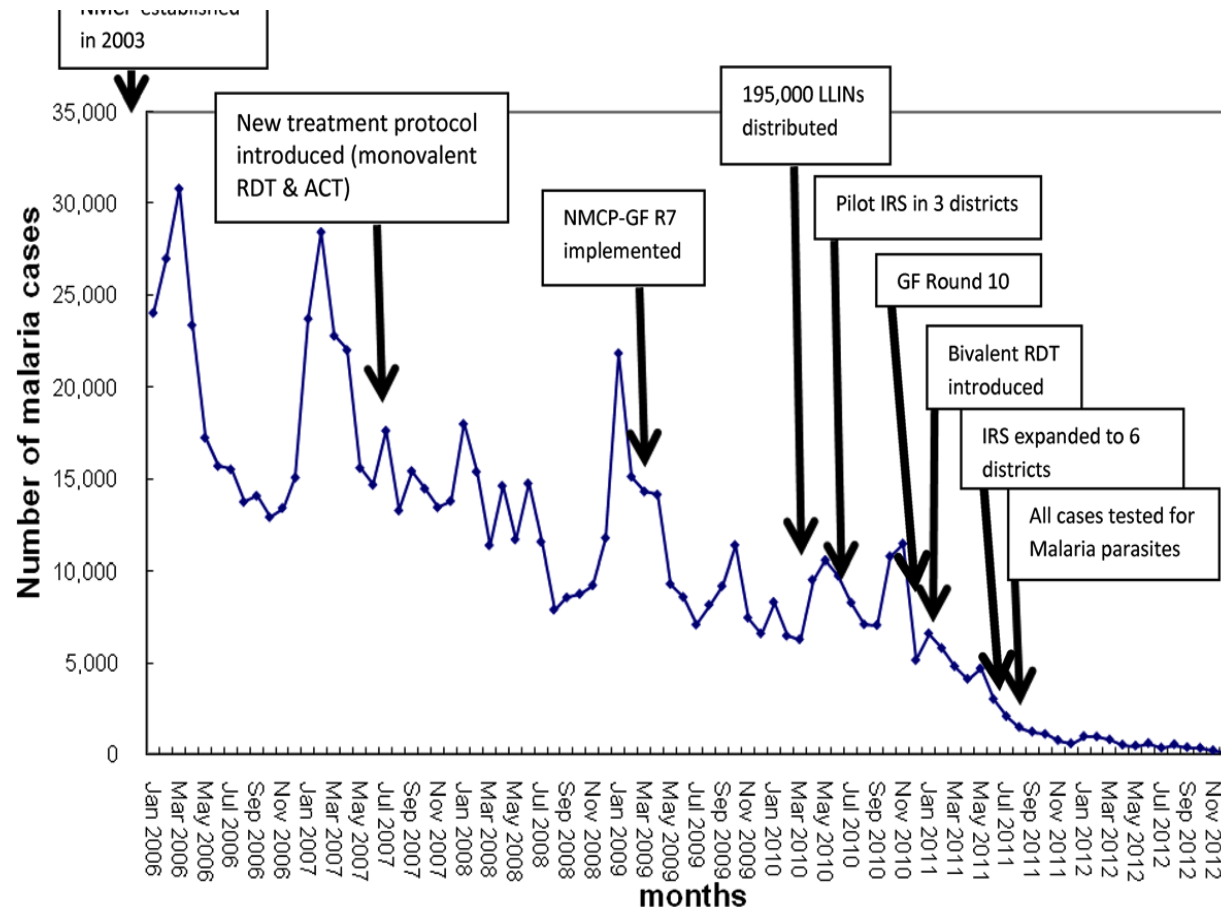
Dr Kevin Palmer

Independent Consultant

By 2030

- Vanuatu and Timor Leste will have eliminated malaria and been certified by WHO as malaria free.

- Solomon Islands will have reached zero indigenous cases and be progressing towards elimination with a target of 2034.

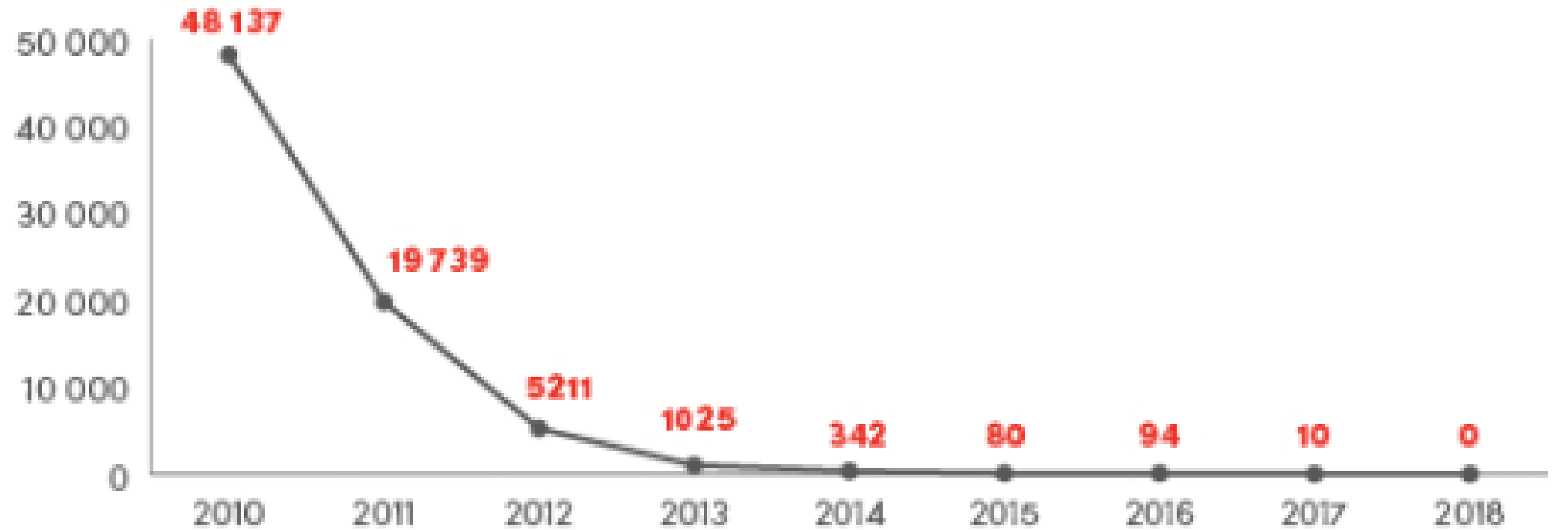- Papua New Guinea will still be struggling and may never achieve elimination.

Timor Leste

Timor-Leste: Malaria cases in 2016
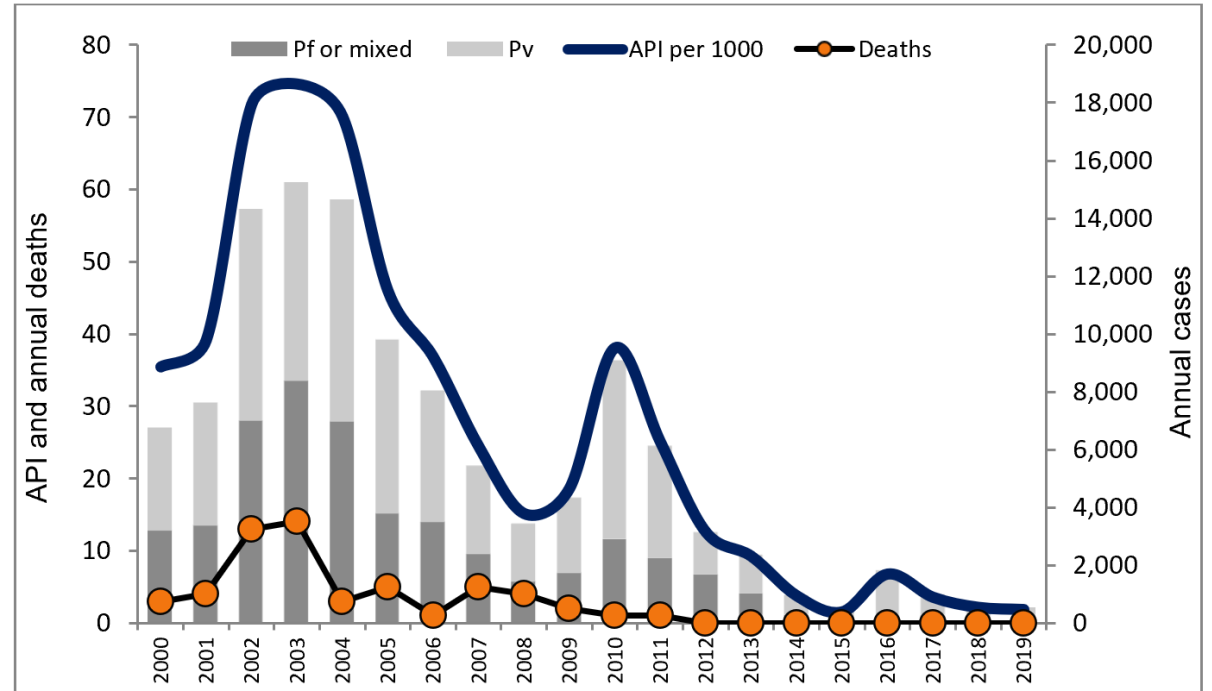
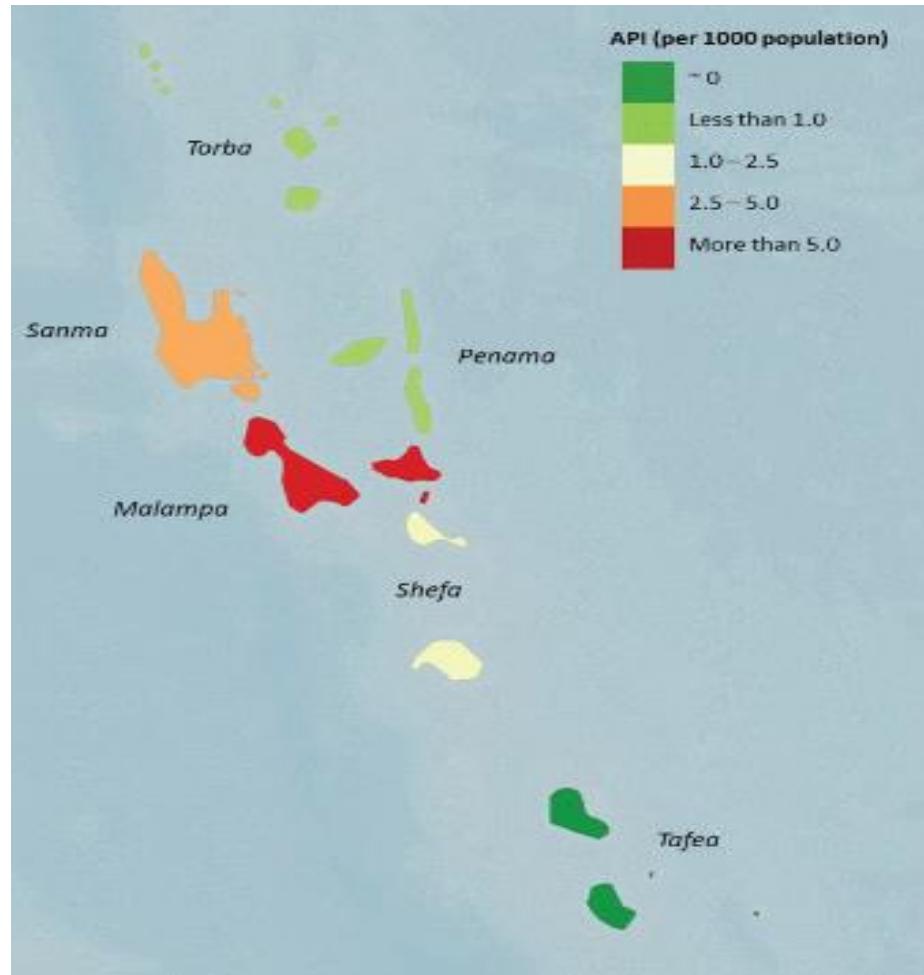# Timor Leste – Cases 2010-2019

Timor Leste Challenges

- Maintain malaria free status in Oecusse
- Maintain collaboration/communication with Indonesia

Vanuatu

- Targets zero indigenous cases by the end of 2023 and certification by 2026.

- It is on track with cases remaining in Malampa and Sanma Provinces.

Vanuatu - Current Malaria Situation

API

Province	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Malampa	2.8	24.3	10.7	5.1	**4.9**
Sanma	3.8	15.7	10.7	3.8	**4.2**
Penama	2.2	0.6	0.78	0.17	**0.03**
Shefa	0.2	0.4	0.18	1.7	**1.0**
Tafea	0.0	0.0	0.03	0.08	**0.03**
Torba	2.4	0.7	0.0	0.72	**0.97**
Vanuatu	**1.6**	**6.8**	**3.8**	**2.2**	**1.9**

Vanuatu EliminationTimeline

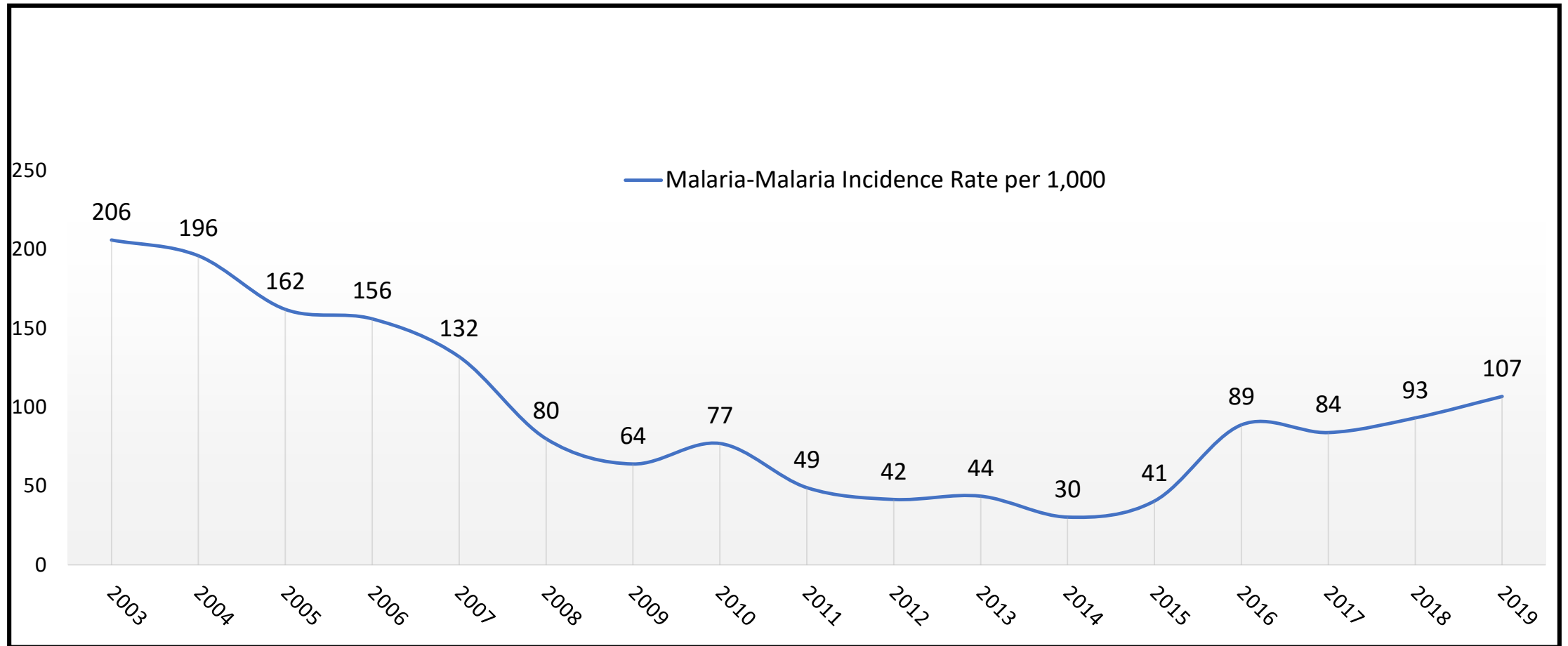|	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
National API in cases/1,000 pop	≤ 1	≤ 0.5	≤ 0.2	≤ 0.1	≤ 0.1	≤ 0.1
Indigenous cases	≤ 280	≤ 140	≤ 56	0	0	0
Achieve zero indigenous cases	Penama, Torba	Shefa	Malampa, Sanma			National certification

Vanuatu Challenges

- Natural Disasters
- Shortage of manpower
- Shortage of funding up until now
- Issues with net distribution – ran out of nets
- Lack of an elimination-ready surveillance system
- Issues with roll out of G6PD testing for *P. vivax* treatment
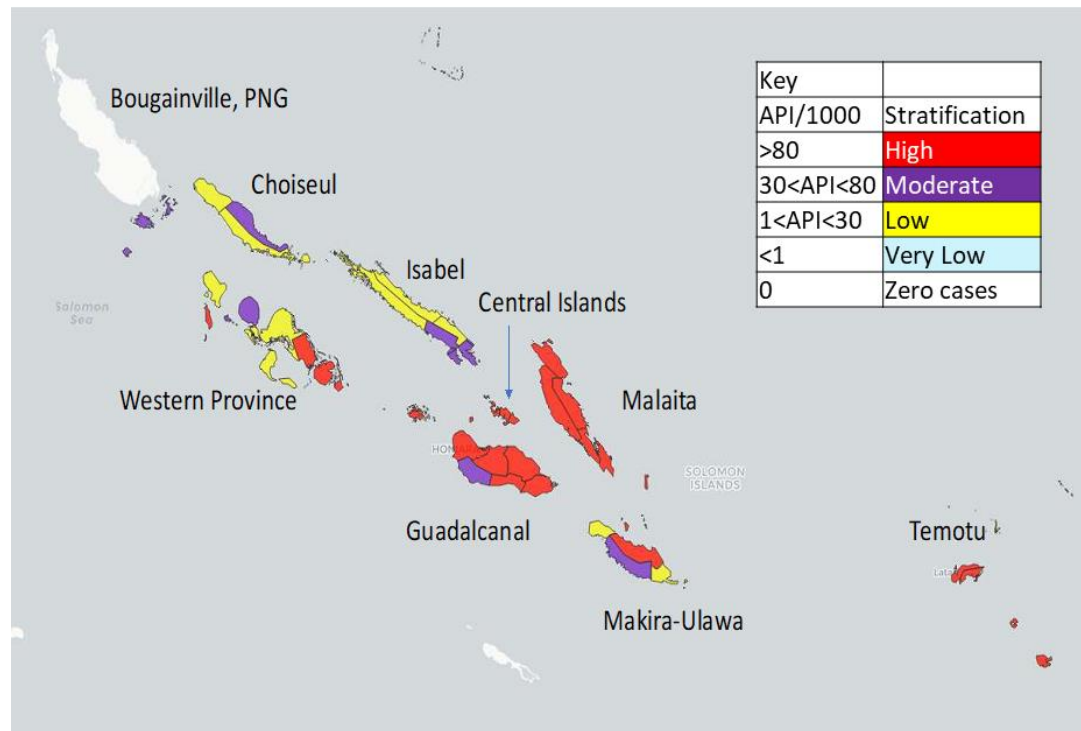
Solomon Islands

- Target is zero indigenous cases by the end of 2030 and certification by 2034.

- Was on track prior to 2015 but since then there has been a resurgence of cases concentrated in a few provinces.

- Some provinces – Isabel and Choiseul – are ready for elimination.
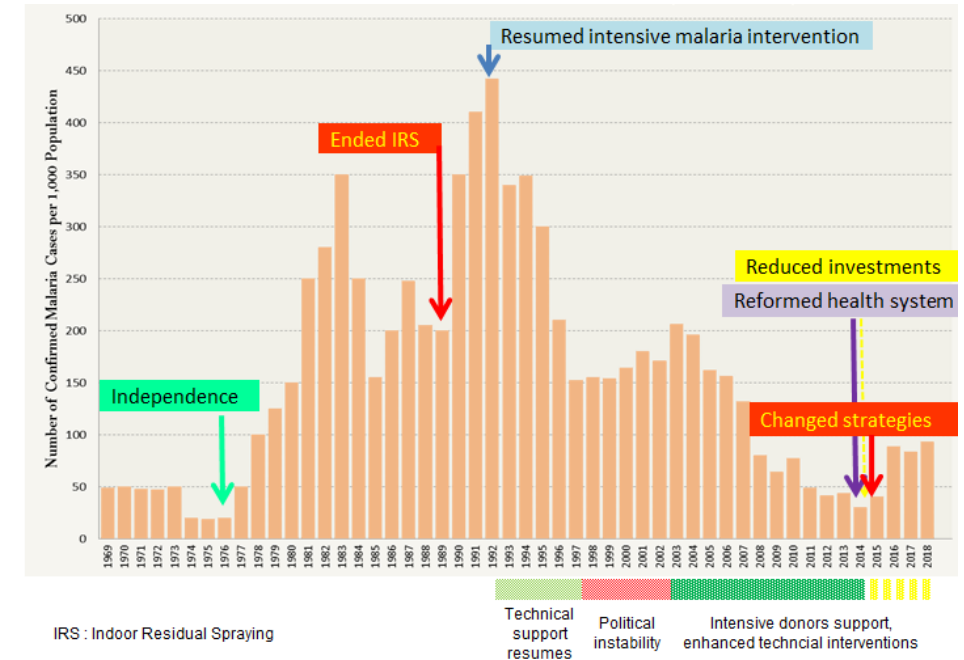
Solomon Islands – Current API Trend

Malaria-Malaria Incidence Rate per 1,000

Year	Value
2003	206
2004	196
2005	162
2006	156
2007	132
2008	80
2009	64
2010	77
2011	49
2012	42
2013	44
2014	30
2015	41
2016	89
2017	84
2018	93
2019	107

Solomon Islands - Stratification

Key	
API/1000	Stratification
>80	High
30<API<80	Moderate
1<API<30	Low
<1	Very Low
0	Zero cases

Strata	API	Number of Health Zones	Population at Risk	Percentage of Total Population
High	API >= 80	24	435,248	67.0%
Medium	30<API<80	8	81,793	12.6%
Low	1<API<30	12	128,401	19.3%
Very Low	0<API<1	0	0	0
Malaria Free	API=0	1	3,827	0.6%

Solomon Islands Challenges

- Decentralization leading to weak/delayed implementation of key interventions at the provincial level.

- Technical problems with LLINs leading to low coverage and low usage.

- Need to revive use of indoor residual spraying in outbreak areas.

- Need to an elimination-ready surveillance system.

- Need to rollout of G6PD point-or-care testing for *P. vivax.*

Papua New Guinea

- Was on track for elimination prior to 2015 but since then there has been an increase of 521,000 cases. Incidence has increased from 91/1.000 to 127/1,000

- It is doubtful that PNG will ever eliminate malaria with currently available tools.

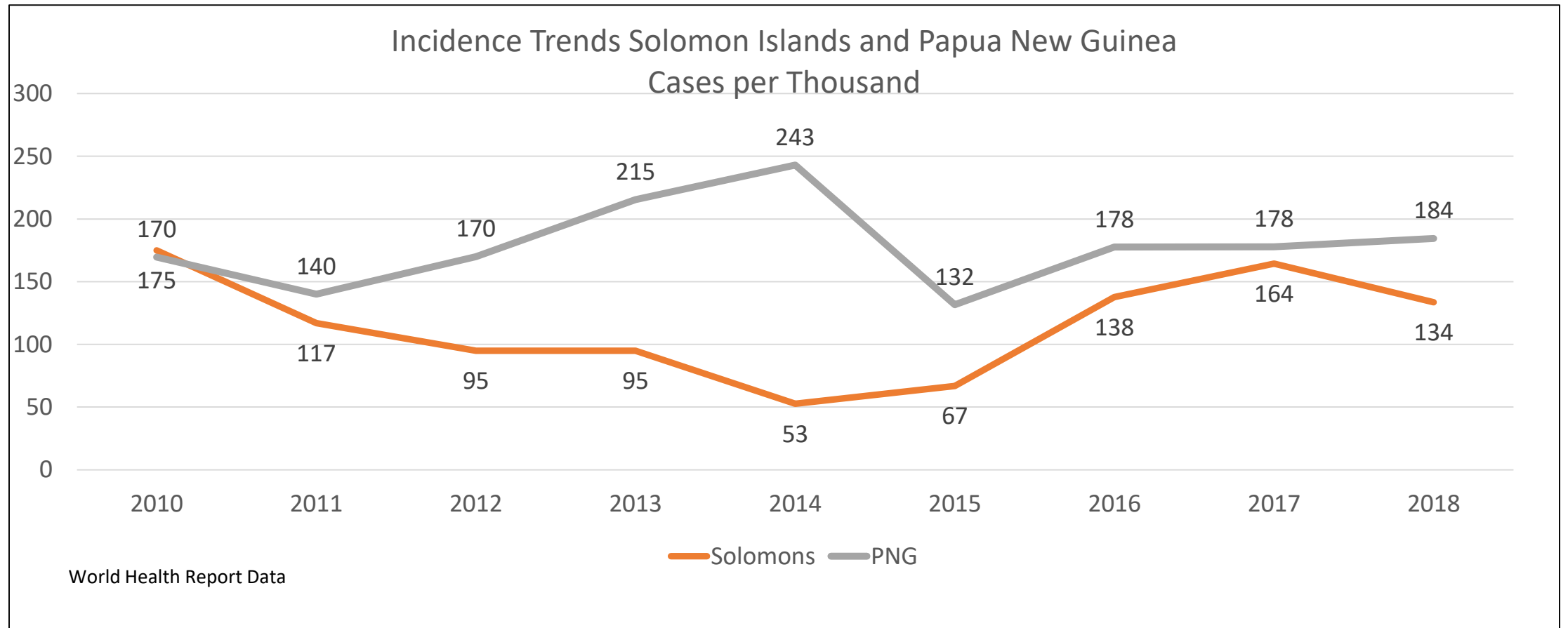Source NMCP
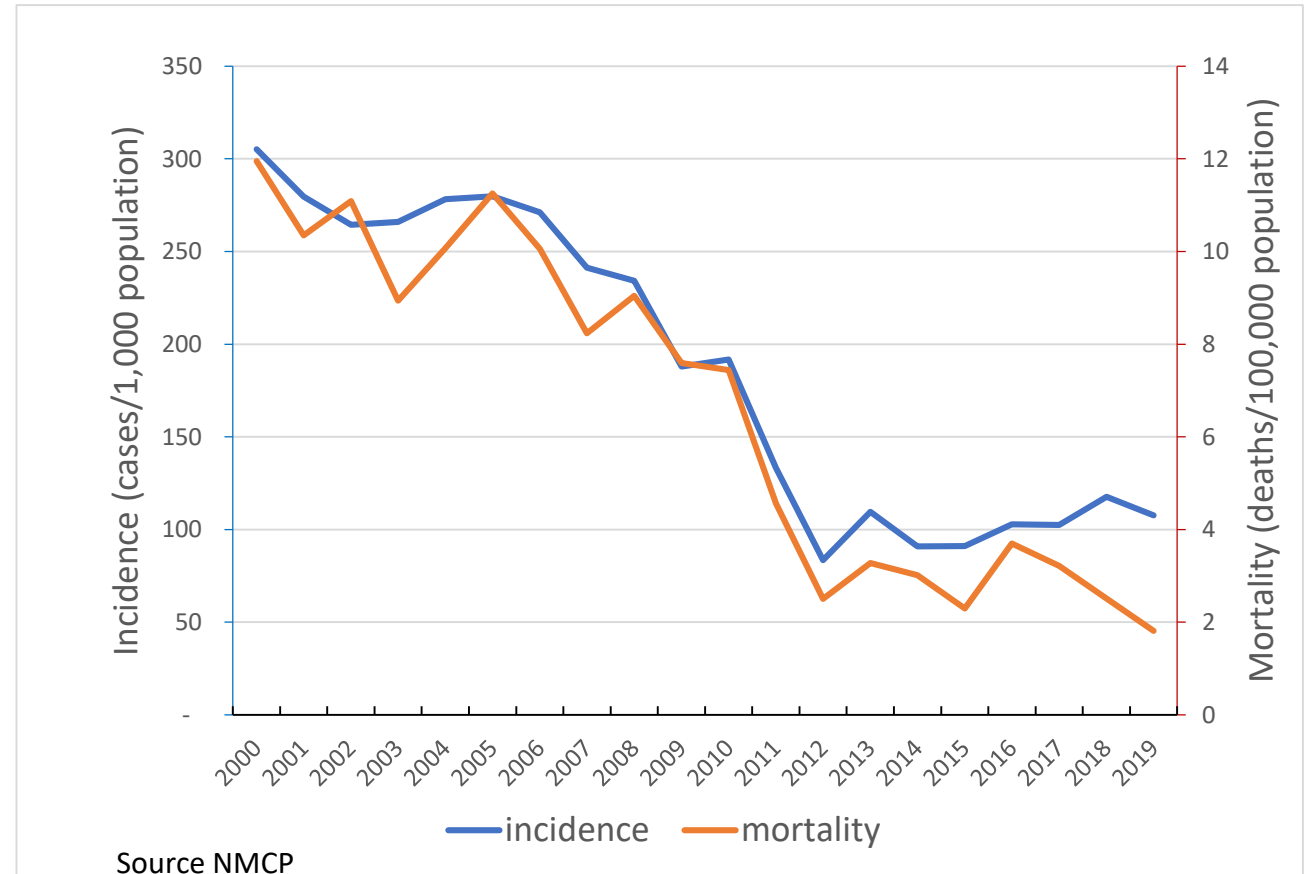
Papua New Guinea Challenges

- Dysfunctional health system
- Lack of drugs at facilities due to poor distribution system
- Problems with net quality (previously)

Papua New Guinea - Goals

- By 2025, the aim is for malaria incidence to have fallen from 73 per 1,000 to less than 25 per 1,000 nationally, and for deaths from malaria to have fallen by more than 80%.✳

- Malaria will be at or close to elimination in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville; the remainder of the islands Region will be well-positioned to push for elimination by 2030; and importation into the outbreak-prone Highlands Region will have ceased.

✳ Prevalence data from sentinel sites – not API.

Malaria Incidence – PNG and SOL

Incidence Trends Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea
Cases per Thousand

World Health Report Data

Solomons   PNG

What are key components of success

- Programs that are based on strong health systems have been successful – Timor Leste and Vanuatu

- High coverage and high LLIN usage

- Universal access to diagnosis and effective treatment

- Procurement and distribution system that gets diagnostics and drugs to health facilities on time and in the proper quantitates to prevent stock-outs

- Strong technical leadership

- Strong political commitment

- Strong management

- Community involvement

- Adequate funding and funding that reaches down to the operational level

- Support from donors and partners

Effect of COVID-19 Pandemic

So far only PNG has cases ases but eventually it will come to the rest of the Pacific even with a vaccine.

Diversion of resources to prepare for/respond to the pandemic

- Manpower diverted for planning
- Funds taken from other programs

Some overlap in area of surveillance/contact tracing

What can RAM do?

For PNG – run the program.

Support community involvement in surveillance

Support key infrastructure – housing and sheds

Thank You