

Briefing

Support to the National Malaria Control Program (NMCP)

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1. Introduction

This document highlights the kind of support given to the National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) of the Ministry of Health (result areas 2.2). Documents with more information have been prepared in the NMCP folder as explained below:

1. EUV reports folder containing
 - a. EUV reports (EUV 1 and 2)
2. PNFP stock status reports folder containing
 - a. PNFP stock status reports from Feb 2012 to Feb 2013
3. Presentations folder containing
 - a. Presentation to PMI – April 2013
4. Reports folder containing
 - a. PNFP assessment reports
 - b. PNFP order assessment report
5. Work plans folder containing
 - a. Work plan for support to NMCP and PNFP facilities
6. Integrated Management of Malaria – facilitator’s guide
7. National Malaria Control Policy

2. Problem analysis

Like all the other MoH programs, NMCP is no exception to logistics challenges.

At central level, issues of uncoordinated quantification, pipeline and procurement monitoring were also a challenge.

At facility level, poor stock and storage management exist coupled with high staff turnover.

For Private-Not-For-Profit (PNFP) facilities, there are free malaria commodities; unfortunately, uptake of the free commodities is low. This is made worse by erratic facility ordering, poor quality orders and claims by facilities about the lack of knowledge of the free commodities at Joint Medical Stores (JMS).

Strategies were therefore developed to address the challenges mentioned above. These included:

- Improving uptake of free anti-malaria commodities by PNFP facilities
- Facility level capacity building - SPARS for PNFP facilities
- Technical Support to NMCP - QPPU

3. Strategies

a) Improving uptake of free anti-malaria commodities by PNFP facilities

In March 2011, PMI offered free anti-malaria commodities through JMS to PNFP facilities. However, like mentioned before, uptake was low. A number of interventions have been put in place to improve uptake. In Dec 2011, 20% of all PNFP facilities placed at least one order in the last 6 months; in Dec 2012, this improved to 50%; in March 2013, this has improved to 60% though it is still low.

A survey was conducted among PNFP facilities in Nov 2011 to ascertain the causes for the low uptake of commodities. During the exercise, health workers were mentored on stock management principles. From the survey, a bimonthly order and report form was developed and availed to the facilities through JMS and the Diocesan Health Coordinators (DHCs).

To monitor stock levels, a bimonthly PNFP anti-malaria commodity stock status is produced and shared with key stakeholders. Such reports have provided early warning to avert looming expiry of products through distribution to non-conventional sites or donating to the National warehouse - NMS. Ordering trends are monitored and non-reporting facilities contacted by the recently employed data clerk at JMS.

Ordering, reporting and distribution schedules for JMS have been developed. This coupled with to the door delivery is hoped to greatly improve uptake among PNFP facilities.

b) Facility level capacity building – SPARS for PNFP facilities

Supervision Performance Assessment and Recognition Strategy (SPARS) has provided positive results in the SURE supported districts. This same approach is being rolled out among all PNFP facilities through their dioceses. To this effect, 18 Diocesan Health Coordinators have been trained in SPARS. Practical field training is currently being conducted for the Protestant Medical Bureau.

c) Technical Support to NMCP

QPPU has played a major role in producing bimonthly stock status reports and pipeline monitoring. QPPU led the recently concluded Global fund re-commoditization exercise.

4. Recommendations

- Continue implementation and monitoring of interventions to improve uptake of commodities by PNFP facilities
- Develop a common pricing approach by PNFP facilities for free commodities
- Monitor the impact of SPARS among PNFP facilities
- Train clinicians on the use any new technique before distribution of the new commodity, e.g. RDTs