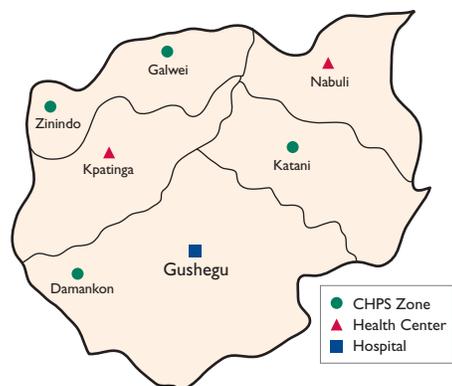


GUSHEGU DISTRICT HOSPITAL BOOSTS CAPABILITIES TO COMBAT MALARIA

The tracking and collection of accurate data on malaria morbidity and mortality is an integral part of program planning and reporting, and The President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) depends on routine health information management systems to guide program planning and document results. Data collected at a small set of health facilities is used to demonstrate trends in malaria morbidity and mortality and complement information obtained through other sources. Sentinel sites were thus set up to contribute to a national system of health facility-based surveillance for malaria control. In 2008, five hospitals were selected to serve as sentinel sites to collect monthly data on trends in key malaria indicators to support PMI.

Gushegu District Hospital, one of the selected sentinel sites, is located in northeastern Ghana about 105



Gushegu District Map Showing Health Facilities

kilometers from Tamale. The hospital serves as an important resource for health care in the area, including provision of care and treatment for malaria. In March 2010 alone, 1,062 malaria cases were reported. As part of the PMI and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the sentinel site supports the collection of data related to disease surveillance and tracking of resistance against anti-malarial treatment. Gushegu Hospital and other sentinel sites are required to conduct a lab test to confirm a malaria diagnosis for malaria outpatient cases – a criteria which has recently been endorsed by WHO. The data collected on laboratory test confirmed cases can be utilized to help determine how best to use malaria prevention and treatment resources.

Upon initial assessment and review of facility data, ProMPT realized that the results for one of the main surveillance indicators, *number of outpatient clinical malaria cases lab-tested*, was not meeting expectations. Coverage for this indicator stood at 30%. In discussions with the facility staff and CDC, the main factors contributing to low compliance were identified, including laboratory performance, data entry and computer hardware issues, and involvement of both clinical staff and hospital management in ensuring



Gushegu sentinel site entrance



ProMPT team meets with Gushegu staff to discuss improvement processes

compliance with norms and standards for laboratory testing of suspected malaria cases.

ProMPT worked closely with the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) and Gushegu Hospital to develop a set of improvements to address the multi-faceted challenges. Gushegu Hospital staff attended discussions and brainstormed for possible solutions which were introduced over a period of two months.

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- Training of health workers: Key hospital staff were trained in malaria case management and malaria in pregnancy
- Augment Lab Technicians: The hospital management added two laboratory technicians to supplement the lab workload demands.
- Increase the lab capacity: A new Olympus microscope was provided to the laboratory by Quality Health Partners

- Increase Lab/Data/Prescriber Staff Allowance: ProMPT increased the allowance paid to the core staff working on the PMI data and included an allowance for Prescribers and Laboratory Technicians
- Install a New Computer: ProMPT purchased a new computer for data entry for Gushegu

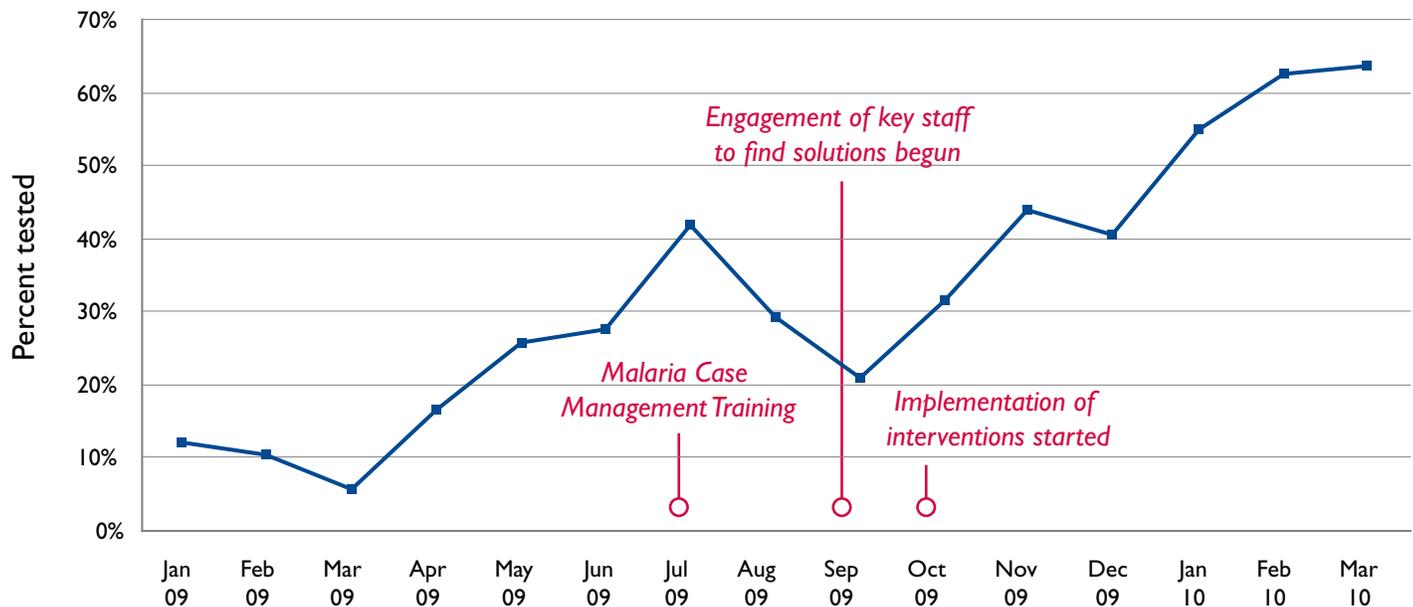
The graph below presents the data for the past 15 months and demonstrates that the specific changes introduced led to direct improvement, as measured and documented in the medical records.



“We always want to work at achieving excellence, though we have issues with our data we believe attaining standards is never beyond us.”

– Dr. Azaare Nsoh, Medical Superintendent for Gushegu Hospital

Percentage of Outpatient Malaria Cases Laboratory Tested – Gushegu District Hospital, Northern Region, Ghana January 2009–March 2010



Outpatient malaria cases suspected	739	746	814	669	1353	1532	1377	1631	2260	2074	1148	1008	1080	840	1062
Suspected cases tested	87	78	45	109	346	418	572	471	473	654	503	409	592	521	674