



PROJECT BRIEF

Clover Project

Using malaria as the entry point, Clover aims to reduce the burden of other communicable diseases

The overall aim of this project was to improve the health of the poor by reducing the burden of malaria and increasing access to and quality of communicable disease interventions through strengthened health systems

COUNTRIES

Ethiopia
Mozambique
Uganda
Zambia

DONOR

Irish Aid

LENGTH OF PROJECT

Three years (completed)

PARTNERS

National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP)
Mozambique, Malaria Consortium Africa, Ministry of Health in each partner country

PROJECT OUTLINE

Funded by Irish Aid and implemented by Malaria Consortium, the Clover programme focused on health systems strengthening (HSS) using malaria as an entry point. This work generated important experiences and results by using a pragmatic, flexible and context-sensitive approach.

In each of the Clover project countries, successes were evident at all levels of the health system in terms of how strengthened systems have assisted in scaling up interventions.

The regional aspect of the project mainly focused on sharing of systems designs between countries such as the district planning guidelines, the information officer concept and the free net retreatment scheme.

Other successes of the regional approach included the

highlighting of the need for health systems strengthening during annual regional planning and review meetings for countries within Eastern Africa, as well as inputs made to resource packs outlining best practice for various malaria control interventions. This phase took advantage of progress to date to intensify regional work.

Beyond regional programming, this programme had the attractive value of providing a regional link in Irish Aid's malaria work. It offered a clear demonstration of vertical coherence in the Irish Aid international development programme, spanning as it did, global support (the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria), regional support, country level support and in some cases, sub-national support.

The project undertook basic and operational research to fill



Clover aims to improve the quality of care and prevention of malaria among those who are most at risk

knowledge gaps and ensured that strategies applied were evidence-based.

Malaria Consortium's role in the project was to design, test and then refine a model for HSS, using better malaria prevention and control as an entry point, that could contribute to improvements in health outcomes. These would then have beneficial effects on control of other communicable diseases such as tuberculosis. The regional nature of the programme added more value to the work because it presented opportunities for inter-country sharing of information, experience exchange and learning.

Malaria Consortium's coordination activities also helped to facilitate the rapid and high quality implementation of the strategy.

This project had a direct impact upon efforts to:

- ✓ **Combat malaria and other infectious diseases**
- ✓ **Strengthen national health systems**
- ✓ **Provide operational research outputs**
- ✓ **Provide monitoring and evaluation outputs**
- ✓ **Reach at-risk and vulnerable communities**
- ✓ **Behaviour change through communications**

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Improved skills and systems for supply of medicines and health commodities
- Improved access to and use of routine health information
- Improve quality of care and prevention of malaria
- Ensured that the best practices in health systems strengthening are used to inform regional and national policy makers
- Strengthened leadership and provide better planning and budgeting of health services
- Enhanced capacity and use of scarce human resources
- Encouraged better coordination and more effective partnerships.