

Strengthening and improving a national ICCM programme

To contribute towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goals 4 and 6 on reducing child mortality and halving the malaria burden respectively in Inhambane province, Mozambique

Project outline

In June 2010, Malaria Consortium received support from the Planet Wheeler Foundation to contribute towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals relating to malaria and child survival. This funding made it possible for us to work with the national government to improve and save lives of some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in Mozambique by providing support for the implementation of the community health worker (CHW) programme in the province of Inhambane, Mozambique.

Malaria Consortium has been working in the province, implementing a three year integrated community case management (ICCM) project funded by Canadian International Development Agency since 2009, which ended in December 2012.

Malaria Consortium's implementation of the government's CHW Revitalisation Programme began by delivering the new four month long training curriculum and materials in one district as part of a national pilot. Based on the findings from this pilot, Malaria Consortium was prominent in a comprehensive revision of

the training curriculum and materials for the national programme.

Once the revision of the training materials was completed, implementation has gained momentum. At central level, Malaria Consortium provided technical support to the MoH on CHW strategy definition and planning, development of training curricula and materials, and definition of monitoring and evaluation framework and tools.

One very relevant aspect has been Malaria Consortium's technical review of all the materials used in CHW training following the pilot experience. The revised versions have clearer and simpler language, and make extensive use of visuals and illustrations to better suit a low-literacy audience. The structure of the course has also been reorganised, making it easier to read and understand. The revision was approved by the MoH and all the materials produced with Malaria Consortium's technical support have since been used by all partners in the CHW Revitalisation Programme that is being rolled out across the country.

Country

Mozambique

Donor

Planet Wheeler

Length of project

1st grant: March 2011 - August 2012

2nd grant: January 2013 – December 2013

Partners

Ministry of Health, Provincial Health Directorate In addition, several research studies, supported the implementation process; the lessons learnt and identified best practices contributing to improving the quality and sustainability of the service.

The new project funded by Planet Wheeler Foundation in 2013 will provide for continued support to consolidate the achievements of the programme in Inhambane and inform programme scale-up at national level.

Project 1: achievements (2010-2012)

In Inhambane province, Malaria Consortium has provided organisational and technical support to PHD for the programme across the province and more direct financial and logistical support in seven out of 12 districts, in line with Phase I (implementation phase) described above.

The activities supported by Malaria Consortium included:

- » Training of 181 new CHWs serving 188 communities of seven districts, of which more than 40 percent are women
- » Training of 52 CHW trainers from all districts of Inhambane province
- » Training of 71 CHW supervisors at provincial level
- » Provision of working kits and essential drugs to CHWs to effectively attend communities across the whole province.
- » Creation of a behaviour change communication strategy at province level in collaboration with PHD
- » Development, testing and implementation of communication materials for health prevention and promotion activities
- » Development and broadcasting of an interactive radio programme kit, to promote preventative behaviours and early care-seeking practices
- » Facilitation of experience-sharing sessions between main stakeholders
- » Advocacy though the development of human interest stories
- » Monitoring of initial implementation of CHWs' activities.

Project 2: objectives (2013)

The new project aims to complement and support Inhambane PHD efforts on the consolidation of the CHW Revitalisation Programme. This will be achieved through increasing community education, knowledge and participation in healthcare as well as improving the quality of malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhoea case management in children under five.

The objectives and activities are as follows:

Objective 1: To ensure delivery of high-quality, community-based healthcare and prevention services of ICCM/CHW programme implementation in the Inhambane province according to national quidelines

Activities:

- » To support PHD on implementation of CHW supervision calendar at district (quarterly) and health centre levels (monthly).
- » Provision of refresher and on-the-job trainings to the CHWs
- » Capacity-building of PHD programme staff responsible for annual planning and budgeting of CHWs' programme implementation.

Objective 2: To increase awareness, knowledge and understanding (with health communication and behaviour change strategies, tools and techniques) of prevention and treatment of malaria at community level in target areas

Activities:

- » Production of health promotion materials (leaflets, posters, etc.)
- » Distribution of materials to CHWs and supervisors in co-ordination with PHD
- » Support CHWs on implementation of health promotion activities at their health posts
- » Community dialogues conducted monthly in communities
- » Production and broadcast of interactive radio programme

Objective 3: To document, share and disseminate evidences, lessons learnt and good practices of ICCM for replication and scale up

Activities:

- » Identify lessons learnt and good practices that can contribute to increased support of ICCM and the CHW programme
- » Organise an annual meeting with all stakeholders for programme review and exchange of experiences
- » Centred around evidence-based lessons learnt and good practices, develop regional and global advocacy activities such as the production of health promotion materials (leaflets, posters, etc.)

This project has a direct impact upon the following:

- √ Malaria control
- ✓ Control of childhood illnesses
- √ Health systems strengthening
- ✓ Capacity building / human resource development
- ✓ Behaviour change communications
- ✓ Monitoring & evaluation
- ✓ Policy change / advocacy
- ✓ Support for at-risk populations

