

KEY MESSAGES

- Engagement and mobilisation processes to support integrated community case management (iCCM) should start at programme inception and be continued throughout to ensure the support and participation of the community and community leaders.
- Community dialogues offer an opportunity for community members to collectively change their circumstances, for instance by leveraging communal resources.
- Community members are more likely to contribute resources to support iCCM when community leaders are actively engaged and openly demonstrate support for the programme.

Introduction

- iCCM aims to improve coverage of diagnostic, treatment, and referral services for malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoea among children from two to 59 months.
- Despite strong evidence that iCCM of childhood illnesses can reduce morbidity and mortality, sustainability of iCCM projects remains a challenge. Community ownership and support are important for sustainability.
- From 2014-17, Malaria Consortium implemented the Rapid Access Expansion (RAcE) iCCM programme in Niger state, which sought to improve access to case management services for children from two to 59 months.
- Community engagement and resource mobilisation was an integral component of the programme. Community engagement activities included establishing community dialogues (community meetings at which local issues are discussed and collective actions agreed upon) and undertaking community-level advocacy to engage local leaders, community groups, associations, and individuals.
- The purpose of this exercise was to evaluate the effectiveness of community engagement activities and document the scale and monetary value of community support for iCCM implementation in six Local Government Areas of Niger State.

Methods

- A review of documents and data from the RAcE project was conducted to describe the scale and achievements of the engagement and mobilisation activities, including leveraging of community resources to support community health workers, known locally as Community Oriented Resource Persons (CORPs), and iCCM services.
- Details of resources donated were recorded and validated at community dialogue meetings, based on the market value of items at the time of the donation.

Results

- Engagement and mobilization activities are outlined in Table 1.
- Direct and indirect costs of all community support provided to CORPs in cash and kind was estimated at US\$122,783 (see Table 2).
- Support included cash, material and manual labour to build houses as a non-monetary incentive for CORPs, agrochemicals and other support for farming, and fuel for motorcycles or transport fare to collect drugs (Table 2).
- In one LGA, two communities dedicated farmland to iCCM, whereby money from the sale of farm produce will be used to fund iCCM activities.
- Out of a total of 1,659 CORPs that were trained, 80 percent remained in active iCCM service at the end of year three.



A CORP attending to a caregiver and her child

Table 1: Engagement and mobilisation activities

| Audiences | Engagement Activities |
|--|---|
| • Community leaders | 143 engagement/ advocacy visits and meetings |
| • Leadership of Ward Committees | 300 community dialogues conducted 126 volunteer social mobilisers trained and supported |
| • Community members (caregivers and heads of households) | 3,000 radio messages (slots) disseminated |
| | Outputs |
| | 60 Ward Committees reactivated and supported 80 percent of CORPs retained after 3 years Substantial community resources mobilised |

Table 2: Estimated community resources contributed

| Type of resource contributed | Number of CORPS | Estimated monetary value (EMV) IN \$USD (%) |
|--|-----------------|---|
| Cash | 433 | 18,130.77 (14.8) |
| Farming support and chemicals | 302 | 6,7788.07 (55.2) |
| Houses built/mud blocks | 12 | 12,658.50 (10.1) |
| Logistics Support/Aid | 47 | 1,436.63 (1.2) |
| Material and moral support for CORPs getting married | 6 | 529.25 (0.4) |
| Motorcycles/ bicycles purchased for CORPs | 3 | 1,013.93 (0.8) |
| Farm produce/ animals | 301 | 21,508.18 (17.5) |
| Total | 1,107 | 122,782.62 (100) |

Conclusion

The findings of this exercise show that community support for iCCM is high, with community members contributing significant resources to support CORPs and iCCM services. Such levels of community support appear linked to the engagement of community leaders and activities such as community dialogues. These achievements demonstrate the acceptability of iCCM and the community's desire to help CORPs provide an uninterrupted service.