

Strengthening Uganda's response to malaria

Contributing to reducing malaria-related morbidity and mortality in 26 mid-northern districts to strengthen health systems and support the control and management of malaria

Project overview

Malaria Consortium, in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), is supporting the Ministry of Health to implement a UK aid-funded project that aims to improve access to and uptake of high-quality malaria prevention and control services in 26 districts in mid-northern Uganda.¹

The Strengthening Uganda's Response to Malaria (SURMa) project will build community-level capacity to diagnose and treat malaria and, in line with Uganda's Mass Action Against Malaria strategy, will take the fight against malaria to the household level, highlighting the roles individuals can play in preventing transmission. To promote ownership and ensure sustainability, project activities will be delivered by the respective districts, with Malaria Consortium providing technical support and supervising village health teams (VHTs) and community health extension workers (CHEWs).

Country

Uganda

Donor

UK aid from the UK government

Length of project

July 2018 – June 2022

Partners

Implementing districts

Ministry of Health/National Malaria Control Program

Unicef

World Health Organization

¹ These comprise: Agago, Amuru, Gulu, Kitgum, Lamwo, Nwoya, Omoro and Pader districts in Acholi subregion; Apac, Alebtong, Amolatar, Dokolo, Kaberamaido, Kole, Kwanja, Otuke and Oyam districts in Lango subregion; and Abim, Amudat, Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto, Nabulatak, Nakapiripiriti and Napak districts in Karamoja subregion.

Objectives

The project aims to:

- increase the proportion of women and children protected against and treated for malaria and other common illnesses in 26 high-burden districts
- strengthen health systems at the district level, promoting greater sustainability of malaria and other reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health interventions
- improve malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoea prevention, as well as diagnostic and treatment practices by VHTs and CHEWs
- improve malaria prevention, diagnosis, treatment, monitoring and reporting practices at health facilities
- improve awareness of effective malaria prevention and care-seeking practices at the household level
- strengthen the National Malaria Control Program's capacity to support the implementation of the Uganda Malaria Reduction Strategic Plan
- strengthen malaria surveillance systems and improve the quality, use and sustainability of mobile tracking within the broader electronic Health Management Information System.

Activities

The SURMa project will:

- re-introduce and institutionalise integrated community case management (iCCM) activities in all districts in Acholi subregion and six districts in Lango subregion, using existing VHT structures
- establish iCCM in four new districts in Lango subregion to increase access to essential malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoea services for children under five
- strengthen malaria prevention among vulnerable groups by increasing uptake of intermittent preventive treatment in pregnancy, and improving access to and use of long lasting insecticidal nets
- deliver social and behaviour change communication interventions to encourage the population to take appropriate malaria prevention and management measures
- ensure communication and coordination among partners in order to leverage respective strengths, coordinate activities, support the development of policies and standardised guidelines to guarantee timely and improved service delivery, and strengthen sub-national capacity to deliver effective malaria control measures
- conduct data quality assessment and validation exercises, and support the flow of community data to the District Health Information System 2
- periodically carry out epidemiological and entomological surveillance and monitor drug and insecticide resistance to guide future strategies for malaria control and case management
- train health workers in epidemic preparedness and response.

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Cover image: A laboratory technician testing a child for malaria during the SURMa baseline survey in Akokoro, Uganda

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