Improving access to, quality of, and demand for ICCM services

Helen Counihan
30 May 2013
ICCM Definition and Purpose

Community case management (CCM) is a strategy to deliver lifesaving curative interventions for common childhood illnesses, in particular where there is little access to facility-based services.

A good CCM strategy:
• addresses access to, quality of, and demand for CCM services;
• seeks to ensure that CCM has the support of decision-makers, health care providers, and community members; and
• is put into action in tandem with improvements in the health system.

CCM does not “stand alone.” The best efforts upgrade the skills of existing cadres of community health workers (CHWs) so they can deliver curative interventions; such efforts also ensure strong links to existing health facilities.

CORE Group, Save the Children, BASICS, MCHIP 2012
Integrated Community Case Management

ICCM tackles the major childhood illnesses; malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoea

ICCM emphasises a holistic approach to care and requires the involvement of a variety of stakeholders in the health sector
Existing Infrastructure/Institutional Arrangements

- **Mozambique:**
  - Agentes Polivalente Elementare (APEs) functioning since 1970s but very fragmented service
  - Performing health promotion and simple first aid
  - Decision to revitalise national policy in 2010

- **South Sudan:**
  - No policy but long history of community level care, mainly through NGO projects
  - Very poor health service infrastructure

- **Uganda:**
  - Village Health Teams (VHTs) for health promotion, 4-5/village, 6 days’ training

- **Zambia:**
  - CHWs with 6 weeks’ training, no supplies – non-functioning
Common Gaps for ICCM Implementation

- **Policy Landscape**: national ICCM policy to be developed/revised
- **Community delivery systems**:
  - Updated training curriculum and materials development
  - Drugs and diagnostics for use at community level - defined and approved
- **Community-based agents**:
  - Harmonisation of different Ministry department strategies within ICCM
  - Inclusion of community level data within national health management information system (CHMIS)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>GOAL</strong></th>
<th>Reduce child mortality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TARGET</strong></td>
<td>Reduce under-five morbidity and mortality by up to 35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DURATION</strong></td>
<td>April 2009 – March 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Selection Criteria for Implementation Sites

- All cause under-five mortality rate ≥ 120/1000
- Malaria & acute respiratory infection (ARI) proportionate mortality ≥ 15% each
- Under-served rural populations
- Favourable policy environment
- Support from MoH for site selection and implementation
- Strong presence of Malaria Consortium, good relationship with MoH, capacity for rapid start-up
Implementation Sites with populations

- Uganda, Mid-Western Region (2.2 million)
- Mozambique, Inhambane Province (1.4 million)
- Zambie, Luapula Province (930,000)
- South Sudan, Unity State (770,000)
Programme Implementation Approach

- Embedded project within Ministry structures and systems
- From start-up engage with existing processes to instil strong Ministry involvement and ownership
- Provide additional technical knowledge to strengthen national policies, guidelines and implementation
- Participation in relevant national technical working groups
Programme Implementation

Interventions

- Community-based case management of malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoea
- Diagnostics at community level
- Drug formulations, unit dosed pre-packaged for community level
- Refresher training of health facility staff
- Training for CHWs including job aids
- Supportive supervision for CHWs
- ICCM data management
- Behavioural change communication
- Programme evaluation
ICCM Strategy & Commodities

**Malaria:**
- Diagnosis: RDTs – not South Sudan
- Treatment: Artemether/lumefantrine (artesunate/amodiaquine co-formulated South Sudan)

**Pneumonia:**
- Diagnosis: Respiratory timers
- Treatment: amoxycillin dispersible tablets

**Diarrhoea:**
- Treatment: Low osmolarity ORS and zinc supplement
  (Zambia and South Sudan in Year 2 only)

**Fever:**
- Paracetamol (in Zambia and Mozambique only)

**Danger signs of severe illness:**
- Refer to health facility (pre-referral treatment for severe malaria with rectal artesunate in Uganda and Mozambique)
National ICCM Delivery Model

- **Mozambique:**
  - APEs performing 80% health promotion : 20% treatment
  - Receiving monthly subsidy of USD 40
  - Phase I – 25 APEs per district

- **South Sudan:**
  - Community drug distributors, trained for 6 days in ICCM
  - Coverage – 1 CDD per 40 households

- **Uganda:**
  - VHTs for health promotion, 4-5/village, 6 days’ training
  - 2 people from each VHT then trained for 6 days in ICCM

- **Zambia:**
  - No national model for ICCM but community treatment practices included in malaria and child health implementation guidelines
Implementation – Timelines to Dec 2012

- **Mozambique**: 9 months
- **South Sudan**: 1 year 8 months
- **Uganda**: 2 years 6 months
- **Zambia**: 2 years 3 months
Sensitisation Activities

• Sensitisation is necessary at all levels to ensure engagement
• Introduction of project at national level – approval for implementation and to approach sub-national authorities
• Meetings with authorities at provincial/state levels to introduce project – roles and responsibilities discussed
• Sensitisation at district/county levels – mainly aimed at health authorities
• Used existing structures and community leaders to conduct sensitisation meetings through to community level, involved district/county level health staff
## Training Model

- Follow MoH guidelines and give technical inputs to development of curriculum and tools including job aids
- Use adult-focused, participatory training methodology
- Train health facility staff in ICCM, as trainers and as supervisors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mozambique</th>
<th>South Sudan</th>
<th>Uganda</th>
<th>Zambia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Development/revision of materials</td>
<td>Technical inputs to national curriculum</td>
<td><strong>Organisation’s own materials – shared with MoH</strong></td>
<td>Technical inputs to national curriculum</td>
<td>Technical inputs to national curriculum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Balanced</td>
<td><strong>Mostly women</strong></td>
<td>Balanced</td>
<td>Balanced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>2 weeks within 4 month full</td>
<td>6 days</td>
<td>6 days</td>
<td>6 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roll-out</td>
<td><strong>1 level training</strong>: residential</td>
<td>Cascade: non-residential</td>
<td>Cascade: non-residential</td>
<td>Cascade: residential</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Behaviour Change Communication

- Formative research conducted in all four implementation areas
- BCC strategy developed for each location informed by research
- Community leaders and CHWs trained to lead community dialogues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mozambique</th>
<th>Uganda</th>
<th>Zambia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approaches used</td>
<td>Community dialogues</td>
<td>Community dialogues with interactive posters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio spots</td>
<td>Radio spots</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio programmes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support by Malaria</td>
<td>Training and supported agency to develop</td>
<td>Dedicated BCC officer with additional DFID funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consortium</td>
<td>Training</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Due to poor security and early project closure, no BCC activities in South Sudan
## Supportive Supervision

- Model based on national guidelines where in place
- Technical inputs into supervisor tools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mozambique</th>
<th>South Sudan</th>
<th>Uganda</th>
<th>Zambia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supervisor</strong></td>
<td>Health facility staff</td>
<td>Health facility staff and community monitors</td>
<td>Health facility staff</td>
<td>Health facility staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Frequency</strong></td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>Twice-monthly or monthly</td>
<td>Initially monthly and then quarterly</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type of supervision activity</strong></td>
<td>At health facility and home visits</td>
<td><strong>Home visit</strong></td>
<td>VHT group meetings (HF) and home visits</td>
<td>CHW group meetings (HF) and home visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Financial facilitation by Malaria Consortium</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
<td><strong>Payment of supervisor per form submitted</strong></td>
<td>Transport costs for VHTs</td>
<td>Transport costs for CHWs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ICCM Data Collection

- Technical inputs into development of data management system
- Data submission linked to supply replenishment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mozambique</th>
<th>South Sudan</th>
<th>Uganda</th>
<th>Zambia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Data submission</td>
<td>APE to health facility</td>
<td><strong>Supervisor to Malaria Consortium</strong></td>
<td>Parish coordinator for group of VHTs to health facility</td>
<td>CHW to health facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaria Consortium data received</td>
<td><strong>From HMIS</strong></td>
<td>Supervisor’s form</td>
<td>Health facility summary form</td>
<td>Health facility summary form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial facilitation by Malaria Consortium</td>
<td>None</td>
<td><strong>Payment of supervisor per form submitted</strong></td>
<td>Transport costs for PCs – sometimes need to collect forms from HFs</td>
<td>None – sometimes need to collect forms from HFs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Supply and Stock Management

- International procurement through pre-qualified agency
- Unit-dosed, pre-packaged for community level use
- Special approval for use at community level for RDTs (Uganda), amoxycillin (Zambia)
- Use MoH systems as much as possible for storage, distribution and stock management
- Development of stock management tools and training given to supervisors and ICCM providers
Operational Research

• Pilot of use of mobile phones for ICCM reporting, Uganda
• Rational use of antibiotics in treatment of pneumonia within ICCM – Zambia
• Interpersonal communication skills and quality of care provided in ICCM, Uganda
• Participatory evaluation of ICCM implementation experience (DFID funded)
Additionality and Partnerships

- inSCALE – costing, innovation evaluations, advocacy
- Pioneer project in Mid-Western Uganda (Comic Relief)
- Planet Wheeler co-funding in Mozambique
- DFID PPA – participatory evaluation and documentation
- COMDIS-HSD – operational research

- UNICEF
  - Collaboration for implementation in Mozambique
  - Funding of other ICCM project in Uganda
- Save the Children
  - Harmonised approach and technical inputs in Mozambique
  - Joint endline survey in South Sudan (with IRC also)
Modified from D Marsh 2012 AJTMH

Illustrative Unintended Outcomes (HF workload decreased; informal private sector dislocation; reduced AMR)

Cause-age-specific and overall mortality & morbidity

**Health System factors**

- **Use**
  - Equip, train and deploy CHWs

- **Access**
  - Facilitate provision of supplies

- **Quality**
  - CHW training including job aids
  - Supportive supervision
  - Data management

- **Demand**
  - BCC strategy
  - Community dialogues

- **Policy**
  - Technical working groups; advocacy
  - Drug legislation/regulations

**Planning**

**Outcome Evaluation**

**Ministry of Health inputs**

**Political, financial and other external factors**
Learning

• The implementation model has essential elements as well as contextual variations that ensure feasibility of implementation
• ICCM can be a mechanism for health systems strengthening
• New tools now available for improved quality of diagnosis and treatment at community level – e.g. malaria rapid diagnostic tests, dispersible tablets, respiratory timers
• Our approach of embedding within Ministry of Health structures and processes from beginning has contributed to ICCM programme transition
Malaria Consortium is a pioneer and innovator in building capacity and systems for increased coverage of life-saving interventions for major childhood illnesses.
www.malariaconsortium.org

Thank you