

CSO Power!

Training Civil Society Organisations to provide M&E following net distributions

Local Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have often been involved in the delivery of nets to the community, but there are few examples where CSOs have also led the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the retention and use of nets in the community. Not only are CSOs a useful resource but their knowledge and regular presence in the communities positions them as key in taking forward sensitisation and communications activities which will be informed by this monitoring and evaluation work.



A CSO partner conducts a household interview

If long lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLINs) are used every night, in particular by those most vulnerable to malaria such as children under five and pregnant women, they have been shown to have a large impact in reducing both sickness and death from malaria in the population.

Malaria Consortium Uganda is working with Wellshare International and the Malaria and Childhood Illness Secretariat (MACIS) to partner with CSOs under the USAID/PMI funded Uganda Malaria Communities Partnership (UMCP) project, where they have played a key role in the distribution and evaluation of over 100,000 LLINs in the West Nile region of north west Uganda.

A key component of the UMCP project is to provide CSOs with the skills and capacity to implement a range of community-based malaria interventions and to monitor them effectively. So Malaria Consortium designed a simplified net retention and use survey methodology – both quantitative and qualitative components – to enable CSOs to take a proactive role in all aspects of the survey from planning, data collection and analysis. The aim is to determine the levels of retention and utilisation of the nets and the factors which affect these levels.

CSOs were provided with a one day training on the importance of the survey and monitoring and evaluation in general, the difference between quantitative and qualitative methodologies, the accurate completion of the survey tools and simple data analysis approaches.

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“The training techniques used were very practical and enabled us to acquire knowledge and skills about quantitative and qualitative surveys. The net retention and use survey methodology was very important in ensuring the nets continue to be utilised properly by the community. We aim to do further surveys in the future to continue the monitoring of net retention and use in our communities.” Amboa Moses, AYED, Arua

It was essential that the survey was robust and of sufficient quality to ensure that results collected were meaningful, but also that it was within the capabilities of the varied CSOs working within the project, many of whom had no previous experience of conducting surveys.



A focus group discussion is led by one of the CSO partners

In order to achieve this, the quantitative aspect of the survey involved collection of the key indicators required to determine and understand net retention and use in the communities. A total of 120 households were randomly selected per sub-county, 12 households per village, with a total of 10 villages in total. Quality checks of the questionnaire were undertaken by the CSOs themselves but with external quality control and support supervision provided by Malaria Consortium. The CSOs then entered the results of the questionnaires into a simple pre-designed Excel worksheet that assisted the CSOs in simple calculations in order to determine values for basic indicators.

The quantitative component of the project was complemented by the qualitative aspect of the survey, comprising focus group discussions (FGDs). The FGDs aimed to gather more information on the reasons behind the retention and use of the nets, such as the extent to which people saw the use of nets as important, any thoughts people had around the safety of the nets or the threat from malaria, or who within the family should sleep under them.

The CSOs were able to effectively take forward all aspects of the retention and use survey, collecting and analysing the data to a reasonable standard. The results showed both high retention and usage of the nets comparable to other surveys conducted in the area and across Uganda. It is therefore possible, with the right guidance and support, for local CSOs to effectively monitor outcomes of LLIN distributions using a modified retention and use survey methodology, extending CSOs roles to include more than just involvement in the distribution, but also monitoring and evaluation and follow up.

Malaria Consortium is the world's leading not-for-profit dedicated to the comprehensive control of malaria.

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