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How to use rdt for malaria

Mandate of the PROGRAM The Program is charged with providing quality assured services for Malaria prevention and treatment to all people in Uganda. The program guides Malaria control efforts as outlined in the Malaria Reduction Strategic Plan 2014 - 2020 (UMRSP). The Uganda Malaria Reduction Strategic Plan (UMRSP) provides a common framework for all stakeholders to accelerate nationwide scale up of evidenced-led malaria reduction interventions by the government, development partners, the private sector and all stakeholders. It stipulates the priority interventions, the strategic re-orientations and the investments required for achieving the goals and targets. The overall goal of the plan is to reduce mortality due to malaria by 80% of the 2010 levels and reduce morbidity due to malaria by 75% of the 2010 levels, thereby setting the ground for pre-elimination subsequently. This is in line with the regional strategy for malaria elimination endorsed by the Government of Uganda (GoU). Vision: The vision is to have a "Malaria free Uganda". Mission: The mission of the Ministry of Health's National Malaria Control Programme is to provide quality assured services for malaria prevention and treatment to all people in Uganda. Goals By 2020, Reduce annual Malaria deaths from the 2013 levels to near zero (Near zero implies less than 1 death per 100,000 population) By 2020, Reduce malaria morbidity to 30 cases per 1000 population (That is 80% reduction from the 2013 levels of 150 confirmed malaria cases per 1000 population) By 2020, reduce the malaria parasite prevalence to less than 7% (Over 85% reduction in malaria parasite prevalence from a baseline of 45% in 2010) Strategic Objectives for Malaria in Uganda The following objectives are expected to lead to the achievement of the above goals: By 2017, achieve and sustain protection of at least 85% of the population at risk through recommended malaria prevention measures By 2018, achieve and sustain at least 90% of malaria cases in the public and private sectors and community level receive prompt treatment according to national guidelines By 2017, at least 85% of the population practices correct malaria prevention and management measures By 2016, the program is able to manage and coordinate multi-sectoral malaria reduction efforts at all levels By 2017, all health facilities and District Health Offices report routinely and timely on malaria programme performance; By 2017, all malaria epidemic prone districts have the capacity for epidemic preparedness and response. Overview of Malaria in Uganda (2014 - 2020) Malaria is a major public health problem associated with slow socio-economic development and poverty and the most frequently reported disease at both public and private health facilities in Uganda. Clinically diagnosed malaria is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality, accounting for 30-50% of outpatient visits at health facilities, 15-20% of all hospital admissions, and up to 20% of all hospital deaths. 27.2% of inpatient deaths among children under five years of age are due to malaria. A significant percentage of deaths occur at home and are not reported by the facility-based Health Management Information System (HMIS). Malaria is endemic in approximately 95% of the country, affecting over 90% of the population of 3 million. The remaining 5% of the country consists of unstable and epidemic-prone transmission areas in the highlands of the south- and mid-west, along the eastern border with Rwanda, and the north-eastern border with Sudan. The 2009 Malaria Indicator Survey (MIS) reported high prevalence of malaria parasites in children 50%) will be identified and supported to implement IRS. Strategy 1.2: Sustain universal access to LLINs Use of long lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) is one of the ways of preventing malaria. These LLINs provide protection against mosquito bites and the transmission of parasites and also kill mosquitoes or repel them. It is the responsibility of the National Malaria Control Program and partners to source for and distribute LLINs. During this strategic plan implementation, the Government will support the procurement of LLINs, distribution of the LLINs through mass campaigns and routine distribution through ANC, EPI, schools, private providers and commercial outlets. BCC for LLINs use and maintenance at households is being conducted. In addition to the distribution of LLINs, the NMCP guarantees the availability of LLINs in households, institutions and facilities through the promotion of net retention. Over the planned period, the NMCP and partners conduct community sensitization on care and repair of LLINs, monitoring field efficacy of LLINs including longevity, as well as, provide IEC materials for LLIN care and repair. Strategy 1.3: Build capacity for larval source management including urban malaria control Larval source management (LSM) is a complimentary strategy that the country has adopted in order to reduce malaria. Its implementation is the responsibility of the NMCP, the Vector Control Division (VCD) and National Chemotherapeutic and Research Laboratory. This plan supports the conduct of baseline and follow entomological and vector bionomic studies, training of health workers and VHTs on larval source management techniques, mapping of potential sources for larval source management (breeding areas), larval source management acceptability studies and BCC for larviciding. In Uganda, urban authorities champion the control of malaria in their jurisdictions. Under this endeavour, with support from the NMCP and partners, urban authorities hold quarterly coordination meetings, sensitize urban communities on malaria control, and build the capacity for urban vector control authorities to deliver IVM. The NMCP conducts detailed mapping and malaria epidemiological profiling within major towns and cities and establishes a forum for coordinating urban malaria control with vector control departments, environmental management authorities and urban authorities. Strategy 1.4: Strengthen capacity in entomology, epidemiological surveillance, insecticide resistance monitoring, vector behaviour and bionomics Resistance management and vector surveillance are fundamental in implementing a cost effective and efficient IRS program. This strategy equips the NMCP, partners and the district with knowledge and skills to implement an informed and evidence-led IRS program in order to achieve maximum impact. The NMCP and partners conduct baseline and post IRS entomological surveys/entomological studies to establish vector susceptibility to WHOPES approved insecticides, develop and implement an insecticide resistance management plan. The Ministry will also support the establishment of seven sentinel surveillance sites for vector surveillance and an insectary. In addition national wide vector and parasite prevalence mapping will be conducted. 4.3.2 Objective 2: By 2018, achieve and sustain at least 90% of malaria cases in the public and private sectors and community level receive prompt diagnosis and treatment according to national policy Uganda's second national health policy 2011-2020 (NHP II) and the health sector strategic and investment plan, 2010-2015 (HSSIP) prioritize malaria parasitological diagnosis and prompt treatment with ACTs as the means for reducing morbidity and mortality. Strategically, the Ministry of Health seeks to strengthen the capacity of health workers to implement the new Test, Treat and Track (T3) strategy by strengthening capabilities in prompt and targeted malaria case management; integration of quality assurance and quality control schemes; incorporating malaria in pregnancy into the maternal and child health strategy; improving the procurement and supply chain for the commodities for malaria prevention and treatment; proactive engagement of the private sector in malaria control, as well as community participation in diagnosing, treating and reporting malaria cases. Strategy 2.1: Strengthen health worker capacities for malaria diagnosis and treatment through regular training, clinical audits in the public and private sectors (PNFs and clinics). Specifically health workers from the public, private and village levels are being trained and re-trained on the national treatment guidelines and management of fever including severe malaria management, with particular emphasis on adherence to test results and case management guidelines. Health worker training sessions are being conducted at HC IV or Hospital settings, involving all health workers at these facilities and those from the lower levels. To improve the quality of care, national teams train district health teams in clinical auditing. Strategy 2.2 Scale up and sustain parasite based diagnosis of malaria at all levels Procurement of RDTs and microscopy reagents and sundries for all health facilities will be done through the National Medical Stores (NMS). To scale up diagnostic capacity in the private sector, the NMCP will explore the possibility of subsidized RDTs to be provided through the Joint Medical Stores. Under the GFATM Round 4 and Round 10 grants, 5,000 health workers were trained on RDTs and microscopic diagnosis of malaria in 22 districts. With funding from USAID/PMI, malaria microscopy and RDT training was done in 34 additional districts. Building on the achievements realized under the above two grants, 10,000 additional health workers will be trained on malaria microscopy and the use of RDTs to cover all the remaining 56 districts. Strategy 2.3: Scale up and strengthen iCCM Uganda is expected to achieve close to 100% success in parasitological confirmation of all suspected malaria cases before prompt and accurate treatment of positive cases with ACTs, at all levels of care. For community based health care, the Ministry of Health, in 2010, adopted a strategy for integrated community case management (iCCM) to facilitate access to and reduce the treatment gap for malaria, pneumonia and diarrhea. The iCCM program includes using ACTs to treat malaria after confirmation with malaria RDTs, amoxicillin for prompt treatment of pneumonia and oral rehydration solution and zinc for the management of diarrhea at the community level. The NMCP in partnership with other MoH programs, is also training clinical health workers at HC II and III on iCCM. The NMCP will take lead in guiding the partnership involved in training supervisors of the iCCM program and VHTs, on malaria case management. The Government will supply VHTs with required medicines, equipment, iCCM registers and logistical materials (job aids) in partnership with the pharmacy division and the central medical stores. Working with the district health teams, the NMCP will advocate for iCCM and sensitize the communities about the strategy implemented by VHTs. Health workers at HC II and III levels of care, will regularly (monthly) mentor and supervise VHTs. Strategy 2.4 Strengthen the management of malaria in pregnancy (MIP) The need to fully integrate the management of malaria in pregnancy at the antenatal point of care is supported by results of the 2011 UDHS that demonstrate that over 95% of pregnant women in Uganda attended at least one ANC visit. However, only 25% attended at least two visits and received two doses of SP. Under this strategy, the NMCP will be responsible for updating guidelines and job aids on IPTp, orienting health workers on updated IPT guidelines, producing integrated data collection tools for MIP, procuring IPT DOTs commodities/kit, procuring Sulphadoxine-Pyrimethamine (SP) for the public and private sector and mobilizing communities on antenatal care attendance in collaboration with RHD. Strategy 2.5: Strengthen the quality assurance and quality control of laboratory diagnosis element The current diagnostic policy has been rolled out in all the public health facilities in the country, though adherence to the policy remains challenging. Between 2015 and 2020, the NMCP plans to train clinical laboratory personnel in performing malaria microscopy and quality assurance. The NMCP and the NDA with technical partners will conduct malaria RDTs post purchase and shipment lot testing and quality control both at the point of entry and field monitoring at the health facilities post-distribution. The NMCP will conduct malaria blood slide validation at reference (district hospital) laboratories as well as competence assessments of clinical laboratory staffs. Standard Operating Procedures for malaria diagnostics QA/QA implementation will be prepared and updated regularly by the NMCP and partners. Completion and distribution of parasite-based diagnosis guidelines and QA manual will be done in the first year of this plan. 4.3.3 Objective 3: By 2017, at least 85% of the population practices correct malaria prevention and management measures Implementation and coordination of this multi-sectoral malaria reduction strategy by the MOH will require a more revamped BCC approach. CSOs/ CBOs will be used to empower communities to demand for services, health rights, and accountability from duty bearers therefore increasing utilization and value for money. Advocacy, social mobilization and Information Education (BCC) will be driven by the understanding of changing paradigms that emphasize engagement with various participant groups and deepened empowerment of households and communities to adopt appropriate behaviour. Activities will seek to reduce malaria morbidity and related mortality by motivating every Ugandan to take recommended actions to fund, prevent, diagnose and treat, control and eventually eliminate the disease and to bring about sustainable social and individual behaviour change. It acknowledges challenges in the areas of prevention and vector control, malaria in pregnancy and case management and proposes strategies for effective communication with relevant stakeholders. The implementation of the malaria communication programme interventions are measured as they occur through process and output indicators. The outcomes of the interventions is assessed to determine the contribution of the strategy to the overall goal of the UMRSP 2014 - 2020. The following are the core intervention strategies for this objective: Strategy 1: Strengthen national communication framework Strategy 2: Develop messages for different communication platforms Strategy 3: Strengthen community behavioural change activities for malaria Strategy 4: Strengthen social mobilization at national and sub national level Strategy 5: Create a system for mapping, identifying, and engaging hard-to-reach, minority and socially disadvantaged populations Strategy 6: Improve advocacy for support for malaria control both in public and private sector Strategy 3.1: Strengthen national communication framework The Malaria communication strategy was reviewed, updated and disseminated to address and track the redemption of policy and resource commitments to effective service delivery in communities using appropriate strategies. The national communication framework will build on current high levels of knowledge about malaria prevention to create awareness about appropriate case management and health care seeking behaviour, while addressing barriers to change in attitudes and practices identified in the situation analysis. Once the communication framework is set, all partners will be able to buy in such that the communication is structured. 4.3.4 Objective 4: By 2016, the programme is able to manage and coordinate multi-sectoral malaria reduction efforts at all levels Both the MPR and MTR indicated that the profile of the NMCP within the MOH structure is low. This results in poor coordination of the programme internally and externally with stakeholders. Implementation and coordination of this multi-sectoral malaria reduction strategy therefore requires elevating the position of the NMCP within the MOH to the level where it is able to participate in key policy, technical coordination and resource allocation decisions; and effective collaboration with partners, donors and the corporate private sector. The enhanced coordination role will enable the NMCP to adequately scale up, sustain and monitor program interventions. Strategy 4.1: Strengthen central level advocacy for resource mobilization for malaria control across all sectors During the period of this strategic plan, advocacy will continue for the elevation of the position of the NMCP through advocacy meetings with Ministries of Public Service, Finance Planning and Economic Development and other key stakeholders. This strategic plan aims to rapidly scale up cost effective interventions in a synchronized manner to national scale to achieve impact. In order to mobilize additional resources that will be required to implement the strategic plan, the programme will hold advocacy meetings and engage all potential funders to mobilize resources for malaria prevention and control. The NMCP will develop concept notes, proposals, and work-plans for resource mobilization from the government, development partners and the corporate private sector. Strategy 5.1: Strengthen malaria surveillance through HMIS (public and community) Data generation, collection, collation and transmission of all health data is the mandate of the Uganda Ministry of Health Resource Centre (RC). They collect routine malaria data, which are accessed through the DHIS2. This strategic plan will support training of staff in HMIS, conduct revision and dissemination of HMIS tools. In addition the plan will strengthen the regular collection, collation, analysis and reporting of malaria data. The NMCP and the RC will strengthen data collection, management and analysis capacity so that all districts are capable of timely reporting of the weekly and monthly numbers of suspected malaria cases, cases receiving a diagnostic test and the number of parasitologically confirmed malaria cases from all public health facilities (government and PNF), as well as malaria inpatients cases and deaths. As the malaria deaths reduce due to the scale up of malaria reduction interventions, the NMCP and the RC will review the need to change the paradigm from aggregated reporting of inpatient malaria cases and deaths to line listing of inpatient malaria deaths to gain an insight into programme weaknesses responsible for leading to continuing malaria deaths. The plan will also aim at harmonizing integrated supportive supervision tools before its scale up nationwide. In addition the plan will build capacity for M&E staff in data quality audits. Data quality assessments/audits will also be conducted. Strategy 5.2: Develop and implement an operation research agenda for malaria It is through operations research that the country will adopt informed decisions in the control of malaria. In pursuit of this plan, strengthening research capacity to generate the evidence required for evidence-led policies, inform interventions and programmatic decisions will be a priority. This will be done through revamping of the Uganda Malaria Research Centre (UMRC) as a constituent entity of the Uganda national health research organisation (UNHRO) to coordinate malaria research in collaboration with research/academia and other research institutions. The NMCP in collaboration with academic institutions and other partners will define a malaria operational research agenda, maintain collaboration with local and international research institutions and provide a forum for research results dissemination.

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