



RBM PARTNERSHIP WORKING GROUP FOR SCALING-UP INSECTICIDE TREATED NETTING MATERIALS (ITNS) WORKPLAN AND BUDGET SUMMARY 2003-04

Forward

Insecticide Treated Nets are a key strategy for RBM and an important component of efforts to reach Abuja and Millennium Development Goals. The RBM Partnership provides a renewed and enlarged partnership opportunity with a more focused strategic approach to support national ambitions to scale-up the use of Insecticide Treated Nets for prevention of malaria through this Working group on Insecticide Treated Nets (WIN). The working group has core representation from: countries (8) from each RBM country focus category; the private sector (3); RBM sub-regional networks (4); multilaterals (6); bilaterals (6); NGOs (3); projects (3); the research community (4) and other technical experts (2). At its inaugural meeting in Geneva September 8-9 2003, the Working Group achieved consensus on its terms of reference and developed a work plan and budget for products deliverable over the next 12 months. The Terms of Reference of the WIN include the following functions:

- Facilitate consensus on strategic issues for going to scale with ITNs
- Synthesize knowledge, disseminate and advocate best practices for going to scale with ITNs
- Provide support on strategic issues to the RBM Partnership for going to scale with ITNs
- Facilitate the capacity of RBM sub-regional networks to respond to identified country needs for going to scale with ITNs
- Identify emerging implementation research questions pertinent to going to scale with ITNs, and advocate these to appropriate partners
- Contribute to ITN monitoring (ITN indicators, database and data gathering)
- Create and maintain effective linkages with other relevant WGs, and across other programmes to assist coordination of strategies
- Promote public-private partnerships and targeted subsidies for the provision of nets and insecticides (including development of new products and production capacity)

Although the Working Group could operate on many fronts, it elected to focus on four themes, each with its own *ad hoc* satellite or sub-group for greater efficiency. The themes are:

1. *Strategic and tactical frameworks.*
2. *Enabling environments and best practices*
3. *Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLIN) standards and monitoring*
4. *Indicators and methods for ITN monitoring & evaluation*

Overview of products deliverable in the first year:

Strategic and tactical frameworks. Experience with scaling-up ITNs is limited and countries are calling on RBM for strategic guidance. By the end of 2003, this WIN sub-group will have produced three guidance documents: 1) a revision of the current RBM Strategic Framework for Scaling-up Insecticide Treated Netting Programs in Africa (WHO/CDS/RBM/2002.43) based on input now available from the RBM Regional Support Network's user reviews; 2) a Policy Brief on ITNs clarifying their effectiveness in various settings *vis a vis* IRS; 3) a report on targeted subsidy strategies for ITNs from the Lusaka meeting including a draft of a derivative guidance document for program managers.

Enabling environments and best practices. Commitments made at Abuja to deal with ITN taxes and tariffs have been difficult to realize. This sub-group will focus on taxes, tariffs and regulatory environments as follows: 1) It will develop and regularly update an inventory on ITN relevant taxes and tariffs country-by-country for the RBM website; 2) Through analysis of case studies and best practices it will develop and disseminate an advocacy tool on taxes and tariffs; and 3) It will develop guidelines for common tendering and procurement practices, especially as related to targeted subsidies.

Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLIN) standards and monitoring. LLINs are critical to the long-term effectiveness of the ITN strategy. This sub-group will work closely with the private sector to address: 1) further development of strategic business plans for enhanced technologies for ITN/LLINs; 2) facilitate procurement forecasting roundtables; and 3) evaluate results of acceptability studies.

Indicators and methods for ITN monitoring & evaluation. Monitoring progress in going to scale is a crucial component for optimising ITN coverage over time. This sub-group will harness the expertise of the whole ITNs Working Group to assist the MERG with regard to the key indicators that must be followed. It will: 1) conduct an ITN M&E needs analysis; 2) finalize and obtain consensus on the current draft ITN indicators; 3) prepare a guidance document for RBM Sub-Regional Networks on how to inventory local M&E resources; and 4) develop a standardized costing-framework for comparing program approaches.

The following pages contain draft details of the work plan and budget for the above activities. In addition, each sub-group has already developed a list of still outstanding **implementation research questions**. These will shortly be compiled and prioritised by the whole Working Group through e-mail and tele-conferencing and shared with TDR and the research community.