

EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU) BETWEEN THE ROLL BACK MALARIA (RBM) PARTNERSHIP AND THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETY (IFRC)

EDITORIAL

Invest in the future: Defeat malaria.

Is there a room in this investment for Community Health Workers (CHWs) in achieving the malaria related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)?

Many countries have resorted to working with CHWs especially in hard to reach communities even though in recent years, CHWs were considered as volunteers with a few elements of motivation. They were integral parts of projects and as soon as the projects ended they disappeared. In some countries, they had the fortune of being co-opted as health auxiliaries by the Ministry of Health. This latter strategy should be encouraged in CARN member countries who should seize the opportunity offered by some donors in supporting CHW projects to co-opt the CHWs as health auxiliaries at the end of the donor funded projects.

The use of well selected and well trained CHWs, who benefit from quality facilitative supervision, and are regular supplies with materials needed for their community work, give appreciable results in the domain of improvement of the national health information system. They also bring the population closer to the health staff and thereby contribute to the reduction of malaria morbidity and mortality.

Dr José NKUNI, CARN Coordinator.

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL	1
EVALUATION OF THE MOU BETWEEN RBM/FICR	1
JOINT MISSION RBM/CARN TO STP	1
DID YOU KNOW THAT?	1
RETROSPECTIVE	1

DID YOU KNOW THAT

- Congo** has started their Malaria Program Performance Review?
- Sao Tome & Principe** is preparing to finalize documents for the phase II of the GFATM RCC malaria grant and CARN is assisting with two consultants and more, the country has moved to carbamates for the Indoor Residual Spraying? (IRS).
- Dr Jean Angbalu is the interim Director of the NMCP of the **DRC**?

The RBM Partnership and the IFRC for Central Africa signed an MoU in December 2010 which stipulated that CARN will be hosted by the IFRC within its premises in Yaoundé. By this agreement, the IFRC undertook to provide administrative support to CARN in order for her to attain her objectives within the framework of the fight against malaria in the Central African Sub Region. After a year of implementation, an evaluation of this agreement was initiated in order to allow for better collaboration between the two parties.

Thus, a meeting that brought together the IFRC, represented on the one hand by the Regional Representative Mr Denis Duffaut, the representative of Africa Zone Human Resources, Mr Evatt Ngalé and also their Regional Finance Delegate Papa Moussa Tall, and on the other hand the RBM Secretariat represented by Dr James Banda and the CARN Coordinator Dr. José Nkuni and



Dr Josiane Etang represented the CARN Steering Committee in the absence of the CARN Co-Chairs. The meeting focused on three essential points notably: review of the MoU signed in 2010; the CARN 2013 budget and review of the new draft MoU. Recommendations were made to all parties following deliberations during the meeting. Participants expressed the wish that such meetings be organized much often in order to improve the cohesion and better success of the RBM/ IFRC partnership.

RETROSPECTIVE

The 4th ordinary session of the council of Ministers of Health of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) took place in Malabo (Equatorial Guinea) from the 20-24 January 2013. The Executive Director of the RBM Partnership Secretariat Dr. Nafu and the CARN Coordinator Dr. Nkuni participated at this very important meeting whose objective was to review the principal problems related to health and health services in the ECCAS region.

Joint mission, RBM/CARN, to Sao Tome and Principe

A mission of the CARN Steering committee made up of Dr. Nilton (NMCP Angola), Pr. Tona (Pharmacovigilance Unit of the School of Pharmacy-University of Kinshasa DRC), Dr. Mulenda (WHO IST Libreville Gabon) and the CARN Coordinator travelled to Sao Tomé between the 11-15 of March. The team discussed with the Minister of Health, members of the National Center for the Fight against Pandemics under whose authority is placed the NMCP, national and international partners including UN Agencies and health facilities staff. Huge challenges lie ahead as the country prepares to undertake its pre elimination phase; however it disposes of enough epidemiological, parasitological and entomological data and a surveillance system that permits the tracking of malaria patients and a dedicated staff. There is need to put together and analyse all available data per sentinel site in order to better understand the transmission pattern as disparities exist among health districts and even within the same health district. CARN proposed to help the country in this exercise. The capture of mosquitoes via human baits carried out in 2012 in 14 sites gave 556 anopheles gambiae inside houses as opposed to 8480 A. gambiae outside houses within the context of an increase in confirmed malaria cases. The results of the molecular identification of these A. gambiae as well as the Elisa tests are highly awaited. Amongst others, CARN recommended that a course on malariology be organized within the country in order to increase the number of service providers who know malaria and that an international conference be organized on "STP towards pre elimination -opportunities and challenges".



The Joint mission team with the Minister of Health of STP, Dr Lionel Pontes (center)

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