



MINUTES

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SADC Managers and SARN Steering Committee

Meeting Held in Gaborone, Botswana, 11-13 February 2009
To Prepare for the 2009 Malaria Season

Background

The SADC Region Malaria Managers and the SARN Steering Committee met in Gaborone 11-13th February, 2009 to review the progress made in 2008 in preparation for the 2009 malaria season and to confirm country priorities and activity timelines for the 2009 Harmonised Work Plan for the SARN.

The meeting was attended by malaria programme managers from Botswana, Malawi, Swaziland, Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The SARN Steering Committee and RBM regional Partners also participated.

In the SADC region, 20 million malaria episodes and an estimated 300,000 - 400,000 malaria-related deaths are reported each year. About 74 percent of the people in the region live in malarious areas. However, intensity of malaria transmission varies considerably within countries as well as among the countries of the sub-region making information sharing very important and coordination of plans essential to achieving regional and global RBM targets by 2010.

The SARN Steering committee met to deliberate on the network activities vital in for the HWP necessary to meet the 2010 targets and be able to report on progress.

Key issues discussed

During the meeting *Tanzania* shared its plan to conduct a mass distribution campaign in which 20 million LLIN will be distributed nationally, protecting 40 million people in Tanzania.

Botswana has also started an LLIN distribution campaign in Okavango where 40.000 nets are to be distributed resulting in universal coverage in that district.

Zambia highlighted the achievements revealed in the Malaria Indicator Survey conducted in 2008 with the assistance of the local partnership. All the GFATM Round 8 recipients are on track in preparing for grant signing by March 2009, as indicated by the progress made.

The challenges that programmes are facing include compilation of consumption data for ACTs and use of available data in quantification of ACTs.

The team discussed the need to assist *Zimbabwe* in the light of a looming malaria outbreak, given the low vector control coverage of the previous year. A team was set up to package the needs to respond.

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