



Building Multidisciplinary Teams for Malaria Control in Sub-Saharan Africa.

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Introduction and Background

- The programme is a Partnerships:
 - Ghana Malaria Center/School of Public Health, University of Ghana Legon;
 - Gates Malaria Partnerships (GMP)
 - Partnership for Social Sciences in Malaria Control (PSSMC)
 - TDR, and
 - Ghana Health Service.
- Targets are social and bio-medical scientists involved in malaria control activities.



Effective Malaria Control

- Understanding influence of vector and parasite.
- Understanding the complex interplay of social factors:
 - socio-cultural, economic, political and provision of health care.
- Social science input is critical for the success of local RBM strategies and attainment of its objectives.
- There is a lack of social scientists in sub-Saharan Africa with expertise in applied malaria research.



Broad Objective

- To integrate social science approaches into malaria programme design, control policy and its implementation.



Specific Objectives

- Enhance the understanding and application of social sciences by health personnel involved in malaria control.
- Increase social scientists' understanding of malaria and malaria control related issues.
- Develop functional, multidisciplinary partnerships of biomedical and social scientists for malaria control.



Specific Social Science Objectives

- Develop capacity in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating malaria control interventions.
- Develop capacity to use social sciences in malaria control that is transferable to other parts of Africa.



Course Content

1 Team Building and Working in Groups

2 Epidemiology of malaria

3 Medical & Social Anthropology

4 Malaria control policy/ program design and implementation

5 Advocacy

6 Planning, Implementation, monitoring and evaluation.



Programme Outputs

- 6 teams participated:
 - Benin
 - Cote d'Ivoire
 - Ghana (3 Teams)
 - Nigeria
- Total number = 20
- 9 biomedical scientists and 11 social scientists.
- The bio-medical scientists included:
 - Medical doctors, Epidemiologists, Entomologists, Pharmacists, Bio-Statisticians and Disease Control Officers.
- The social scientists included:
 - Anthropologists, Teachers, Administrators and Managers in policy making positions.



Programme Outputs

- Focus is on team building for malaria control.
- Each Team has developed an implementation proposal for a project to work on in their work place/country.
- Teams will be supervised in the implementation of their programmes.



Further plans

- Participating Teams will run the programme in their countries with the involvement of NMCP.
- This will accelerate capacity development and strengthen social science inputs and the multidisciplinary approach to malaria control in Africa.



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