Strengthening Malaria Monitoring and Evaluation **Systems**

BACKGROUND

The MEASURE Evaluation PIMA (MEval-PIMA) project works with the Kenya Malaria Control Unit (MCU) at the Ministry of Health (MOH) as part of its mandate to strengthen capacity for monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

The support focuses on four key areas:

1. Capacity building in M&E;
2. Strengthening malaria surveillance systems, including epidemic preparedness and response (EPR);
3. Technical assistance for evaluations; and
4. Overall technical assistance in the implementation of the Kenya Malaria Monitoring and Evaluation Plan 2009–2017.

MEval-PIMA works to enhance both the individual and institutional capacity of the MCU to collect, analyze, and use data to make strategic decisions.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND SUCCESSES

To deliver immediate results for the MCU, one of the main activities of MEval-PIMA is capacity building on M&E practices. Through trainings and workshops on M&E fundamentals, malaria surveillance, data analysis, and data management, the project transfers practical knowledge that improves quality and understanding of data for decision making. Our experts also provide mentorship and on-the-job training for program officers in the MCU, both at the national and sub-national levels. Our intention is to pass on skills that will be used long after the project's end, enhancing sustainability and development.

Additionally, MEval-PIMA assists the MCU to implement the unit's M&E plan (2009–2017), which is aligned with the National Malaria Strategy 2009–2017. The M&E document details the objectives of the plan, what data are needed, indicators, sources of data, data collection and flow, analysis, and use. Additionally, the M&E plan details the standards and processes for data collection and reporting and outlines the responsibilities of the various stakeholders.

In the effort to achieve the vision of a malaria-free Kenya, surveillance remains a key strategy. To improve malaria surveillance systems in the country, we provide financial and technical assistance (TA) to the MCU to develop a curriculum to train health workers. We also help develop quality control tools to monitor performance of the malaria surveillance trainings. The MEval-PIMA project also provides TA to the MCU in making decisions based on evaluating previous epidemic preparedness and response—to understand how the issues were tackled, what lessons were learned, and what can be done in the future to improve those responses.

Additionally, we contribute to the compilation of information products, such as the *Malaria Surveillance Bulletin*, county malaria profiles, and annual malaria reports, which are used to show progress of the results of malaria program interventions. The quarterly *Malaria Surveillance Bulletin*, produced in collaboration with the MCU, serves as a scorecard of the progress made towards achieving the set targets in the National Malaria Control Strategy and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

MEval-PIMA takes a leadership role in technical working groups (TWG) attended by various stakeholders and partners, in which we help clarify issues and provide guidance on M&E practices. We continuously support the M&E and operational research TWG meetings, whose purpose is to monitor and evaluate progress against strategic objectives and assess research needs and implications of emerging evidence. This has improved the image of M&E as an important component of programmatic success.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

We engage daily with the **surveillance, M&E, and operational research sub-unit** within the MCU in its effort to strengthen capacity in M&E at the national level. Our experts also help the MCU to set the research agenda by inviting researchers to present the results of malaria studies at the Kenya National Malaria Forum, which brings together researchers, academics, and implementers to share experiences and exchange ideas to inform malaria control interventions.

At the sub-national level, we provide technical assistance in malaria surveillance training to **health workers** so that they are able to collect accurate, quality data for use in programming. The information they provide is now published in the surveillance bulletin and in other key products shared through the MCU at the MOH.

For more information, see:
www.measureevaluation.org or
http://www.cpc.unc.edu/measure/countries/kenya