
“SMS for Life“:

Use of stock information to improve supply Chain

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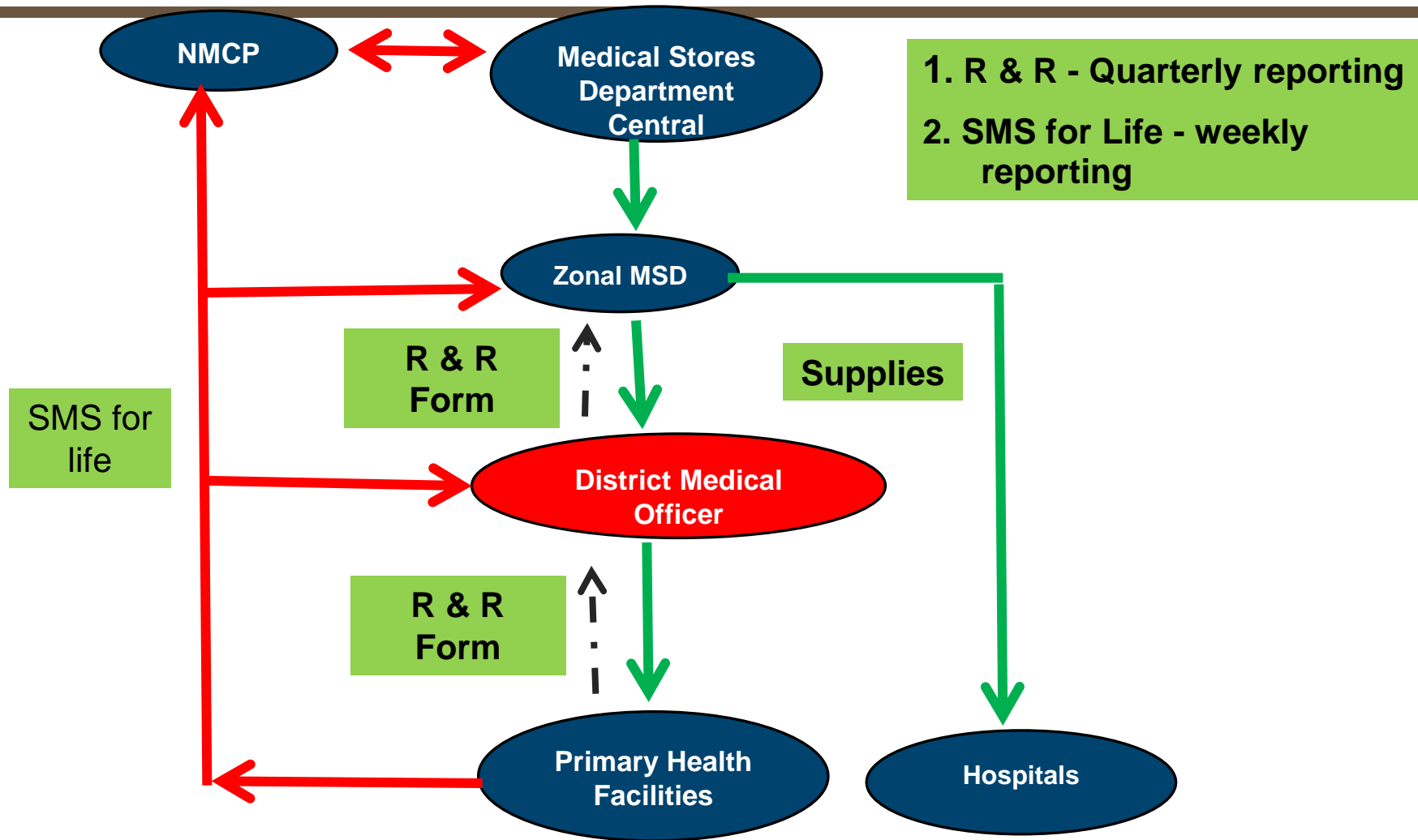
Introduction

- Tanzania is striving to achieve the Universal coverage of malaria control interventions to reduce malaria cases and deaths (National strategic plan 2008 – 2013)
- The interventions include:
 - *the extensive distribution of insecticide treated nets*
 - *Indoor spraying with insecticide and*
 - *Widespread use of Artemisinin based Combination Therapy (ACT)*
- Having 11 million malaria cases reported yearly – constant availability of ACT's stocks at facilities is vital
- Stock out of ACT at health facility may result to unnecessary death caused by malaria

Introduction

- Visibility of anti-malaria stocks in a manner that improves the performance of the supply chain has been a challenge for many years
- SMS for Life provides the state of visibility in the demand-supply network, however this does not provide 100% solutions of anti-malaria stock outs
- Weekly stocks visibilities DMOs triggers replenishment by emergency deliveries and redistribution as opposed to tradition scheduled delivery as a response to facility stock data visibility provided by the system

Supplies & Stocks Information flow



Supply Chain Visibility

Key player in Supply chain at DMO's, RMOs, Zonal MSD and at Central level can monitor the stocks at all levels



- Hospitals
- Health Centers
- Dispensaries



Send an SMS each week with ACT / Quinine levels

“SMS for Life”



Malaria commodities stock level reports delivered via internet. Exceptions delivered via sms to mobile phone or e-mail.



DMOs

Benefits of the “SMS for Life”

- SMS technology is cost effective, simple, familiar and user friendly
- Provide data visibility timely for intervention to take place at all levels (Redistribution of stocks within a district, forecasting and quantification at central level)
- Timely data visibility helps to monitor and reduce stock out rates for anti-malaria commodities at all level
- Centrally data/information facilitates rational and timely management decision in-line with key performance indicators – Data used during Global Fund Reporting/Proposal Write up
- Facilitate evaluation of the supply chain performance and to plan on its improvement

Challenges

- Some health facilities do not realise the importance of the Program
- Existence of other similar multiple vertical system
- NMCP has no full control of the program
- Weak coordination between stakeholders locally and international
- Utilization of data/information gathered not used for decision making
- Resources to run and support the system for the coming years

Way forward

- Continue to advocate on the program
- MoHSW mapping of the current tools and system for data collection
- NMCP & partners review and strengthen the existing coordination mechanism among key players
- Timely sharing of data/information to decision makers
- Mobilise resources for program running and maintenance

NMCP WISHES

- “SMS for Life” application be expanded to collect data on other medicines or morbidity information
- SMS for Life be integrated to Tanzanian e-health strategy and strengthened its control
- SMS for life becomes a model for other countries to learn and implement

Conclusion

- NMCP consider SMS for life is worth undertaking
- Active participation of stakeholders in supply chain at all levels is vital for the improvement of stocks availability

Thank You



for your time and attention