“SMS for Life“:
Use of stock information to improve supply Chain

Winna Shango
NMCP, Tanzania - Case Management
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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

1. R & R - Quarterly reporting
2. SMS for Life - weekly reporting

NMCP → Medical Stores Department Central

Zonal MSD

R & R Form

Supplies

District Medical Officer

R & R Form

Primary Health Facilities

Hospitals
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

"SMS for Life"

Send an SMS each week with ACT / Quinine levels

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