Defining Key Monitoring Indicators for Targeting Resources and Actions
Global Fund Indicator Landscaping Update

SMERG Meeting
May 23, 2023
Project Rationale

- From 2000-2015 global funding for malaria from Global Fund, PMI and other donors increased each year and the cost of core interventions such as LLINs decreased.
- This led to rapid increases in coverage and reductions in cases and deaths.
- However, in the past few years, several challenges including insecticide resistance, malaria funding plateaus and COVID-19 have led to increased cases in many countries.
- A more tailored approach is now needed to get the right interventions to the right places with the limited funds available and indicators need to be adapted to measure sub-national tailoring.

*World Malaria Report 2021*
This project sets out to review the current data sources, collection methods and indicators used by the Global Fund to track country progress on Malaria and Malaria-relevant RSSH indicators and to assess opportunities for a) reduction in current indicators, b) refinement of current indicators, and c) addition of new indicators and data collection methods, where such changes could improve Global Fund programming, alignment with national malaria control program work, or both.

- **PHASE 1:** CURRENT INDICATORS (Oct–Dec 2022)
  - Conduct a landscaping of current data sources, interview key informants at global and national levels, and categorize current indicators

- **PHASE 2:** INDICATOR UTILITY (Jan–Mar 2023)
  - Develop a decision-making framework and flowchart to identify intended use and context for indicator application.
  - Identify possible refinements and/or new indicators

- **PHASE 3:** INDICATOR REFINEMENT (Mar–Jun 2023)
  - Assess indicators for useability & feasibility
  - Conduct pilot studies in Madagascar and Tanzania
Methods
Key Informant Interviews (KII) (KII) (KII)

Objectives

- Primary objective: To explore strengths, weaknesses, and gaps in current Global Fund indicator reporting and performance measurement processes
- Secondary objective: To provide a set of recommendations for improving indicator reporting and performance measurement processes for how to improve Global Fund indicator processes and use

Participants

- Sample size: 11 individual interviews, 3 focus group discussion (n=8)
- Backgrounds: Direct and indirect users of GF indicators (M&E experts, surveillance experts, technical staff, country program teams)
- Interview length: 30 minutes to 1 hour
Comparison of Global Malaria Frameworks

Objectives

- To compare and contrast Global Fund malaria indicators with other key malaria indicator lists used by partners and country programmes
- To identify areas of alignment and misalignment between lists to help partners and country programmes more efficiently measure and report on indicators

Indicator Lists

- Global Fund Indicator Guidance Sheet (2022)
- WHO Core Indicators for Surveillance, Monitoring, and Evaluation
- PMI Key Indicators from an example Malaria Operational Plan (Cameroon)

*For the PMI lists, only the indicator wording was compared as other metadata was not available in the source list*
Indicator Review and Preliminary Categorization Exercise

Objectives

- Identify and assess all current Global Fund malaria and malaria-relevant RSSH indicators*
- Categorize indicators based upon qualitative and quantitative assessment of indicator clarity, data source appropriateness and availability, usefulness of indicator to different levels of decision makers, and possibility of sub-national reporting
- Use expert review and consensus

*Indicator names, definitions, and data sources defined from most recent Indicator Guidance Sheet available.
Data Source Review Exercise

Objectives

● Conduct an initial landscaping of existing data sources used to report Global Fund malaria, and RSSH data elements and indicators

● Elicit user perspectives on the methods used to measure the updated indicators

● Summarize the strengths, weaknesses, and gaps in available global and country data

● Summarize the existing data sources’ robustness, current use, and ability to inform malaria risk stratification and sub-national tailoring of interventions
Pilot Studies

Pilot studies
● Madagascar: March 20-31
● Tanzania: April 17-28

Methods
● Qualitative interviews in capital regions and in low and high endemicity zones
● Examine data availability and flow at various levels of the health system

Pilot goals:
● Elucidate the indicator data that local decision makers use when making decisions
● Determine the feasibility of instituting changes recommended in Phase 1 to existing Global Fund malaria and RSSH indicators
● Determine the feasibility of collecting data to fill information gaps identified in Phase 1 and Phase 2.
Preliminary Findings
Emerging Themes: Core Activities

Emerging themes from the qualitative KII, comparison exercise, and indicator review/categorization exercise included:

**Robustness**
- Some indicators need to be revised or dropped in each thematic area.
- Certain data elements and indicators need to be better standardized.
- Indicators for new interventions need to be added.
- Some indicators important but hard to report on time.

**Current Use**
- Many indicators being used for sub-national analyses and monitoring and evaluation.
- Tracer drug and lab indicators most used RSSH indicators.
- However, priorities for country use differ from priorities for GF use.

**Sub-national Tailoring**
- Feasibility of measuring indicators sub-nationally varies across countries, but easier in countries with malaria data repositories.
- Ability to drive SNT seen as more feasible for vector control indicators than case management ones currently.
Emerging Themes: Data Source Reviews

Emerging themes from the qualitative KII and FGDs, indicator review exercise and data source review suggest a pathway from fragmented data collection to data repositories and new data collection methods.

Data fragmented across sources and difficult to access. Large surveys and modelling main ways to measure indicators.

Many countries start to develop data repositories and do routine quality checks. More indicators can easily be pulled from HMIS directly.

Most data available in HMIS and ideally could be easily sent to GF. Anything not collected by routine reporting collected by alternative low-cost methods.
Potential New Data Sources

The interviews and indicator review discussions also identified potential new data sources that will be explored further in Phase 2:

- Data sources commonly used by other programs such as NTDs
  - Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS)
  - Health Facility Surveys
- Existing sources that can be improved and better utilized
  - Supervision checklists
  - Campaign data collection (including from other programs that are trying to measure same denominators)
- Innovative new data sources
  - Mobile phone surveys
  - Community data collection by community members
Preliminary Indicator Categorization
## Indicator Categorization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Source Quality</th>
<th>Indicator Quality</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
<td>Malaria Indicators: 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>RSSH Indicators: 7</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Low</strong></td>
<td>Malaria Indicators: 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>RSSH Indicators: 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Low</strong></td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
<td>Malaria Indicators: 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>RSSH Indicators: 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Low</strong></td>
<td>Malaria Indicators: 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>RSSH Indicators: 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Comparing the measures in each of the frameworks raises the possibility that some Global Fund indicators could be recategorized.
4 thematic areas of inquiry were identified for the pilot studies

Theme 1: More Frequent Data Collection
Number of pilot indicators: 8

Theme 2: Improved Population Estimates
Number of pilot indicators: 10

Theme 3: Verify Data Availability
Number of pilot indicators: 21

Theme 4: Verify Data Quality
Number of pilot indicators: 12
Next steps

• Analyze findings from all phases and produce a final report with recommendations for improving the quality and timeliness of Global Fund malaria and malaria-relevant RSSH indicators
• Disseminate findings to the Global Fund
  ○ Week of June 26th
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