

Minutes of the meeting of the Entomological Monitoring and IVM work stream
6th RBM VCWG meeting
Wednesday 9th February 2011
International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Geneva, Switzerland

Work stream leader: Jacob Williams, RTI
Rapporteur: Sarah Hoibak
Approximate number of partners present: 23

SUMMARY:

Misconception of IVM. Belief that it means combining vector control measures, though it could be just one intervention.

“Strategic vector management”. Tool for rational decision making to optimize vector control – ecological soundness, cost-effectiveness and sustainability.

Products of work stream:

1. Capacity building – develop harmonized IVM training tools and institutionalize them;
2. Create basic document of critical entomological monitoring protocols;
3. Human Resource Matrix: How many persons and with what skill set for entomological monitoring;
4. Cost-effectiveness studies and country examples of successful IVM;
5. Dissemination of Protocol for VCNA and accompanying budget templates;
6. Advocate for Vector Control Needs Assessment (VCNA) to be included in the 5 year strategic plans and to be required in GFATM;
7. Development of an Information portal www.IVM.net

INTRODUCTION

Jacob Williams introduced the entomological monitoring and IVM work stream and hoped we would discuss the proposed consensus statement and areas that as a work stream we can work on together.

Consensus Statement

Integrated Vector Management and Entomological Monitoring

Gains in malaria control are threatened by significant challenges, including the emergence of insecticide resistance (e.g. Africa) and growing recognition of outdoor – transmission, beyond the reach of the traditional focus on the house with indoor residual spraying and treated mosquito nets. As control efforts scale up and transmission suppression succeeds, national programs are faced with transitioning local malaria eco-epidemiologies, which require ongoing refinement of program management and operational/intervention regimes, as well as capacities to assemble evaluate and utilize local data. Constricting financial resources and a shortage of public health professionals are compounding these problems.

The reorientation of national control programs towards IVM provides an opportunity to systematically and effectively tackle these problems and improve the efficacy, cost-effectiveness, ecological soundness and sustainability of programs. Although WHO has formally recognized IVM as the desired strategic approach for the control of malaria vectors, there remains an urgent need for specific guidelines and implementation and evaluation tools to assist countries to transition fully to IVM..

DISCUSSION

Understanding IVM

Ole Skovmand (IIC) started off with the comment “I think we are very far from the dream of IVM. We are bednets and IRS, due to both funding and tradition, and really there has been no deeper thinking of how this fits into IVM. We should do that, but we need to be practical and recognize that we are moving from a single tool to broader aspect. The question is how do we do that step by step for now.

Challenged by vertical thinking within malaria, and not with other vector management programs. We need much more advocacy to lead countries to develop integrated policies. Evans Muthange (KEMRI) iterates that the work is led by malaria people, an NMCP brainchild as the critical drivers, but we need to look at getting our minds around all the vector borne diseases for multi-vector impact. Responsible –which we look outside of malaria, and take a page from the book of case management which looks at other diseases in differential diagnosis. Also the cost effectiveness argument, impact of vector control (IVM) for malaria and with other diseases should be presented.

A good example is the work of – MoH / PMI / RTI Rwanda to produce IVM strategy, based on a Vector Control Needs Assessment (VCNA) producing the critical information to drive the decision making process.

Misnomer of what IVM is. It is not necessarily adding more tools/interventions, can be one intervention, but it is targeting things in a better way. Evidenced based vector control /Strategic Vector Control. Decision making tool – Rational decision making process to optimize your vector control – ecological soundness, cost-effectiveness – sustainability. (WHO)

Decision making Tools:

Kate Aultman (BMGF): Evidence-based decision making, and a desired outcome of cost-effectiveness. Donors feel that they need a PhD in the mix everywhere, yet we need simple decision tree of where to use what and by what methods. The question is how do we provide a feasible framework for this?

We do need to immediately face the problem the evidence does not exist, and unsure what decision to make, so easier to just throw everything at it. More is better, new tools, environmental management. The local information does not necessarily need to be expensive – local surveillance data.

IVM Draft handbook is on the USB Stick. Jacob asks people to please review it, and comment using the track changes to edit.

What information needs to be in decision making tools, guidelines, handbook?

- The basic entomological package
- basic indicators – that you need to measure for monitoring vector control
- identification of vectors,
- susceptibility studies
- what are the collection methods

- How many sites
- Minimum evidence required to make decisions.
- Pesticide management
- Environmental management

This means

1. Standardized data collection protocols
2. Standardized decision making algorithms

Capacity Building / Trainings

Recommended to have training modules for different levels of involvement in IVM and entomological monitoring, and organized in a way that is a package, comprehensive and harmonized.

How to operationalize the training. In the global funds and ensure a certain percentage for doing both VCNA and the training for these types of operations. Example: Angola and Rwanda (GF are supporting these). Sudan Rd 7 – training IVM personnel (3 weeks)

We need to institutionalize these trainings into university environments as well. Every country has a university and a national research unit. The conjunction marriage of universities with vector control programmes.

Country Examples:

Country examples – case studies, studies. What are countries doing? lessons learned – shared. Standard against – what is required.

Human Resources:

There does exist from AFRO a too detailed document on what kind of skills and what kind of level do we need. Infrastructure / Human Resources / Skill levels. Do we know enough? Can we show that there is evidence in this that if you put in these resources it will have an outcome and impact?

Inclusion VCNA in GFATM and National Strategies:

Sarah Hoibak (independent) suggested advocating for the inclusion of VCNA in the GFATM and WHO advisory note to the GF TRP. Priority is to complete a VCNA before designing a strategic plan (national strategies) If GF is going to fund interventions, then their contributions should go to the OR, VCNA and entomological monitoring to prove that this is the rational use of their funds for vector control impact.

VCNAs are done in EMRO countries and are a part of their strategies.

AGREED PRODUCTS:

- 1) Capacity building – develop harmonized training tools and the right modalities to institutionalize.
- 2) Basic document on entomological protocols for program managers. Lays out clearly what should data should I collect, at what frequency, and how do I interpret it.
- 3) What skills and human resources for entomological monitoring and IVM are needed within a country. This would require a review on current documents. A schema based on human resources required by population size, and with the approval of WHO.
- 4) Evidence of best practices: Cost-effectiveness and country examples
- 5) Advocate for VCNA to be included in the 5 year strategic plan and GFATM
- 6) Information portal IVM .net
- 7) GFATM proposals to make the VCNA a standard document that you have to attach to all future GFATM applications.
- 8) HWG – mobilizing TA to countries needs mobilize the TA money to assist with IVM and entomological monitoring.
- 9) Produce a how to guide for VCNA and a budget template

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