

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT OF

The 4th WARN MEETING

Cotonou, 28-29 November 2003

1. Introduction

The 4th WARN meet was held at Marina Hotel, Cotonou, Benin on 28-29 November 2003. The list of partners who attended this meeting is attached in annex 1. The meeting was considered as "Core group meeting".

The objectives of the meeting were:

- To assess progress made in the implementation of the WARN POA, September 2003.
- To identify/assess need for support by WARN to countries in order to accelerate the achievement of the Abuja targets.
- To prepare a POA for 2004.

2. Summary

2.1. Progress in the implementation the POA September 2003

Most activities planned in September 2003 have been implemented except the recruitment of the focal point and the support to Burkina Faso and Mauritania to facilitate access to global funds and its utilisation.

Regarding the situation of the Focal point, the meeting recommended that UNICEF, USAID and RBM Secretariat meet with WAHOO as soon as possible to accelerate the process of recruitment.

Concerning support, to Burkina Faso and Mauritania, the meeting noted that UNDP has been designated as principal recipient in both countries.

The meeting has also discussed the multiplicity of thematic networks and their role in WARN. Participants agreed that thematic network should be considered as a pool of resource persons that have to be involved in the problem solving process. WARN should undertake an institutional review of networks to better circumscribe their potential contribution.

2.2. Needs assessment

Key needs for support to countries by partners were identified through the Praia meeting report, report from thematic networks (RAOTAP, RAOPAG) and from the REAPING exercise conducted in Benin, Mali, Nigeria and Senegal.

Key issue identified is scaling up interventions needed to achieve the Abuja target. Without an appropriate strategy for scaling up, there is little hope to achieve Abuja targets. The Praia meeting pointed out the difficulties that countries are facing to access and utilise global funds.

2.2.1. ITNs

Regarding ITNs, its availability is problematic given poor forecasting, poor coordination of procurement and inadequate distribution system. Moreover no clear strategy is politically and actively supported to ensure access to ITNs for target population (under five children and pregnant women).

Participants were updated on issues related to quality control of ITNs. They noted that quite important amount of critical information available are not shared with partners.

2.2.2. IPT

While recognising increasing political acceptance of IPT, its implementation is very timid. Tremendous advocacy and effort to develop operational strategies are needed. A political visibility is critical for this intervention to take off.

2.2.3. Case management

Regarding case management of fever, countries are facing high level of chloroquinoreistance. Some countries e.g. Senegal have adapted new scheme of treatment based on combination of antimalarials. Senegal have adopted the combination that will include artemesinin. For the transitional period the combination of SP and amodiaquine will be used.

Country going through the change of drug policy will face the high cost of the combination. In Senegal, in one hand, the cost of the combination adopted is high and prohibitive for the general population. In the other hand, the phasing out of chloroquine create a vacuum at community level since no other drug has been identified for use by family and community.

3. Recommendation

The meeting has recommended:

- WARN should document problem related to access and utilisation of global funds by national malaria program (NMP) and suggest solutions

- UNICEF, USAID and RBM Secretariat should meet with WAHO officials, to finalize the MOU and accelerate the recruitment of the focal point. The interim focal point should draft a letter for Executive Secretary to send to WAHO's Director General. WCARO should continue being interim focal point.
- To reinforce capacity of countries, WARN should plan support to countries to build capacity in Forecasting, procurement and organization of an effective distribution system for ITNs and commodities needed to achieve the Abuja targets. At global level, a mechanism should be found to ensure that co-ordination is made between the service provider being established at global level and other partners already involved in the process.
- WARN and specially RAOPAG should support countries in advocating for activities to operationalise IPT using SP. WARN and WAHO should explore the possibility of using the ECOWAS/AU MOH meetings as fora to put IPT high in the agenda
- WARN and RBM Secretariat should advocate, at global level, for the reduction of the cost of combination of antimalarials.
- WARN, especially RAOTAP network should assist countries to identify provisional treatment to be used for home based case management of and strategy of delivery that ensure access to the drugs by family and community.

4. Preparation of the WARN POA for 2004

The WARN POA for the first semester 2004 has been developed. It includes the REAPING exercise for Ghana (third week of January : 20-25)

The 5th meeting of WARN will take place in Accra, 23-25 March 2004 and will be hosted by Plan international.