



INDOOR RESIDUAL SPRAYING FOR MALARIA CONTROL

Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) Program

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Effectiveness of the IRS Database/Monitoring System

The efficiency of the newly introduced database was tested in Monzombala, one of 17 health areas in Koulikoro Health District in Mali. During routine stock taking of insecticide using the serialized numbers on sachets, the store keeper realized a shortage of 5 sachets in the pack of 50 that had been delivered. He immediately reported the incident to the Head of the Monzombala Community Health Center. The facility in-charge asked the storekeeper to confirm with the Central warehouse the number of sachets that they had been supplied with against what had already been distributed to spray operators. After cross checking and tallying they confirmed that 5 sachets were missing. Further investigations using the database tracking system, established that the sachets disappeared at the secondary store level. The search for the missing sachet was narrowed down to the secondary store – when the storekeeper realized that search had narrowed down to his store he alleged that an anonymous caller claimed that there was a man trying to sell 5 sachets but could not get a client. Further investigations revealed that the storekeeper was involved in the theft and was fired. The use of the database and tracking system made it possible to quickly detect the problem and address it.

For more information contact **Elie Bankineza** email: ebankineza@nb.rti.org

Share Point

A new business collaboration tool called **Share Point** was introduced into the IRS project to help users share information with ease across the IRS countries. The customized IRS share point enables users have easy access to information and are able to collaborate with colleagues on different projects. IRS-Staff are able to access relevant information by simply clicking into the right folders. There are currently concerted efforts by department heads to load current information onto SharePoint to make it as up-to-date as possible.

For more information contact **Eve Van Devender** email: evandevender@rti.org

Targeting Women-only Groups

The Northern Region of Ghana where the IRS program is implemented is basically a male dominated community. Like in most African communities, women are relegated to inherently inferior roles and are usually sidelined in everything, even on issues that would be beneficial to them. As a result, they do not participate in important activities that take place in their communities. The IRS project was aware of the gap and designed an IEC campaign targeting women-only groups to bridge the knowledge gap in the IRS beneficiary districts. The project established that targeting women groups is an effective and reliable way of information dissemination because women use their traditional role of socialization and education to information in their communities. Women are usually the most affected by malaria in the household either directly or through their caregiving roles.



Women-group members attending an IRS Education Session

For more information contact **Napoleon K. Graham** email ngraham@nb.rti.org

IRS-Clubs in School

RTI-Ghana IRS Program has cast its net wider – they have been targeting students within the beneficiary districts with malaria prevention information which includes prevention methods and the IRS. This is anchored on the evidence that malaria is the leading cause of school absenteeism in the districts and school children are a good reliable information channel to their guardians and parents. This intervention was well received by school administration resulting to the formation of school based IRS clubs which use peer education strategy to disseminate information. So far, 20,000 students have been sensitized and they are currently serving as peer educators and IRS ambassadors in their respective communities. The schools in the IRS project area have reported a significant drop in absenteeism due to Malaria.



An IRS School Information Session

For more information contact **Napoleon K. Graham** email ngraham@nb.rti.org

Staffing News

Below are the staffing changes in the region during April - June, 2010

Nairobi Regional Office

Dorine Mukoya, Senior Office Manager

New COPs

- Dr. Stephene Magesa, Rwanda
- Hector Jalipa, Mozambique
- Jean-Luc Taton, Benin
- Nelson Cuamba, Angola