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Effective and Sustainable IEC/Community Mobilization Approach

IEC/community mobilization is crucial in the delivery of IRS and any mishap or serious mistake in IEC/community could compromise the quality of IRS. The Mali IRS project has established an effective and sustainable IEC/community mobilization approach after experiencing several challenges in the early stages of the project. Initially the project hired a consultant to oversee the IEC/community mobilization component and the results were not encouraging. After investigations the project decided to change its approach and use the existing structure within the country.

In 2010 the IRS project invited CНИЕCS, NMCP and the Department of Social Development at the District level to oversee the implementation of the IEC and community mobilization component. The team through its network set up an effective and sustainable approach to conduct IEC and community mobilization for IRS. The use of the department of social development was very strategic because of their experience in conducting other public health campaigns and networks to the grassroot level. This approach is effective and sustainable because it uses a government department.

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IRS Project Beneficiaries Testimonials

"I can testify that since IRS started in Karaga district in 2008 malaria cases have reduced especially in my compound. I have always prayed that every year IRS will be carried out in Karaga. I will therefore do everything within my means to make IRS successful in Karaga" – **Village chief in Karaga**

"I don't joke with IRS because i know its importance. Since 2008 i have always allowed my house to be sprayed and followed the do's and don'ts and i have seen that it really works. I have always encouraged all my friends to do same to enjoy the benefits of IRS" – **Villager**

"IRS has helped my village a lot. The number of malaria cases has reduced. I am a herbalist, number of children that used to be brought to me at night has drastically reduced since they started spraying houses in my village. Hence i always encourage all my people to allow their rooms to be sprayed for the good of the whole community." – **Village chief in Sandua**

"Since IRS started, i have seen that the rate at which children in my house used to complain of headaches, have high temperature and fever is now a thing of the past, hence i will urge all my neighbors and friends to accept IRS and open their rooms for spray operators to spray. IRS is really good and i embrace it." – **Head of household**

"I am very happy with the IRS Operations and will always accept it because, it helps in reducing malaria. Not only does it keep my house Malaria free, it also makes sleeping at night especially with my wife enjoyable." – **Elder in a stakeholder's meeting**

"I will always accept IRS operations. Not only does it prevent malaria, other insects like cockroaches also die after the spraying. May God reward your efforts." - **Housewife in Bulugu**

"RTI/IRS is very good and I am always surprise at those who refuse it. I see no reason why anyone should refuse this free exercise especially as it is for the sake of our health. When the sprayer came, I had all my 13 rooms sprayed. God Bless the IRS project". **Opinion leader in Gushegu**

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Entomology Technicians Training in Nigeria

In August 2011, the first IRS implementation activities started in Nigeria. During this period, the Insecticide Selection & Resistance Advisor led a team of experts to conduct training for entomology technicians as part of building capacity among the local resources in readiness for the launch of IRS activities. The training was hosted by Nassarawa State.



Group Photo for opening ceremony.

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Use of Community Health Strategy Structure Commended

In 2011, the Kenya IRS project piloted the use of community health structure to improve the community mobilization component and build local capacity for project sustainability. The strategy made use of the existing CHWs and the local administration to monitor and very data. The public health officer in the region commended the strategy and saying that "this was our first time to use the CHWs to conduct mobilization for IRS, I was very impressed with the work they did". IRS District Coordinator added that "I have been here for the past 4 years, and this is the best community mobilization I have seen, this is the best way to go"

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Visits

The Nairobi IRS office received the following visitors during the reporting period.

- Barbara Kennedy, Vice President and Director GHG
- Karen Posner, Vice President Finance and Operations GHG
- Maria Powers, Operations Director GHG
- Jill Tenace, Director of Finance GHG
- Bucky Fairfax, Vice President, Human Resource, IDG
- John Sawran, Property Manager
- Linda Olale, Senior Contracts Negotiator, RTP
- Becca Price, Senior PAS, GHG



Barbara Kennedy addressing a meeting at the Nairobi office.

Project Update

- During the quarter, the following countries started their IRS spray campaigns; Angola, Mozambique and Rwanda
- During the same period the following countries completed their spray campaigns; Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana and Kenya.