

# Influence of Community Health Strategy on Malaria Management Projects in Mombasa County, Kenya

Dorcas Mwachi<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Johnbosco Kisimbii<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup>University of Nairobi-Mombasa Campus, Kenya

**Abstract:** *The drive of this study was to evaluate the effectiveness of community health strategy on the management of malaria projects in Mombasa county. With the execution of community health strategy, the malaria burden remains a challenge on the communities in Kenya hence the need to assess effectiveness in managing malaria at the community level. CHS is an approach of one of the Kenyan Vision 2030 flagship plans that intend to improve the health rank of communities by initiating and implementing a system focused health activity at the lowest level of healthcare. The main objective of CHS is to ensure the accessibility of healthcare to all to enhance productivity and thus lower hunger, poverty, maternal deaths, and child mortality. The Community Health/Extension workers, therefore, are enlightened on the knowledge and skills in managing. Tabitha (2015). The specific objectives formulated included; influence of epidemic training among CHW's on malaria management projects, the motivation of the Community Health Workers on malaria management projects, examine the influence of drugs and test kits on malaria management projects and determine the influence of skills on malaria management projects in Mombasa county. The researcher adopted a descriptive design survey with a sample of 75 respondents involved. The sample comprised of 35 CHWs and 35 CHEWs. The study used questionnaires and interview schedules for data collection. The analytical methods employed were the use of SPSS, other methods included measures of central tendency to show and explain the impact of considering certain indicators for community health strategy and measures of dispersion to help understand the differences in the data obtained. From the analysed data, it was evident that the four variables, influence of epidemic training, motivation of CHW's, the influence of drugs and test kits and influence of skills had influence on Malaria management in Mombasa County with a Pearson Correlation coefficient of 0.756,0.491,0.272 and 0.808 respectively which was an indication of moderately strong correlation. The researcher summarized the finding, then drew conclusions and gave recommendations that; The County government should call for a multi-sectoral approach that ensures Availability of drugs and testing kits to support malaria programs in the malaria-endemic zones ;It is essential for the government and its associates to establish maintainable financial spurs as a way of motivating the CHWs . A call for community cooperation and moral support to the CHWs is equally vital: There should be a standardised syllabus for epidemic training the community Health workers across all counties on Malaria Management. Key stakeholders to be involved in the syllabus preparation; Frequent workshops as well as seminars to be organised by the county government to ensure the CHWs skills on Management of Malaria are updated as often as possible.*

**Keywords:** Malaria Management projects, epidemic training, motivation of the Community Health Workers, Malaria drugs and test kits and Malaria Management skills

## 1. Introduction

Malaria has become an enormous public health concern across the World with an estimated population of 40 percent of the entire population reside in malaria-endemic zones globally. Universally nearly 219 million malaria morbidity cases and 660,000 malaria mortality cases befell in 2010 (WHO, *Switzerland, 2012*). However, malaria is predominant in most of the tropical as well as sub-tropical areas of the World, over 90 percent of all malaria deaths at present transpire in Sub Saharan Africa (SSA).

Community Health Strategy interventions have been satellite pillars of main health care (PHC) according to the Alma-Ata declaration-1978. In 2002, UNICEF introduced the "Accelerated Strategy of Child Survival and Development" (ASCSD) in the 11 western and central African countries. Malaria control and prevention interventions in Kenya are steered by the National Malaria Strategy and the "National Health Sector Strategic Plan" (NHSSP) 2005-2010

## 2. Statement of the Problem

Community involvement in development issues including ensuring that its members are healthy and well enough to contribute to nation-building is a critical component of development and ensuring that a country's goals are

achieved. Community Health Strategy was rolled out in 1996 by the Government of Kenya under then the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation to enable the communities to work with its own people in diagnosis and treatment of various illnesses and communicable diseases. This was made possible by the formation of community units and identifying and training the CHWs within the community units. Generally, health indicators improved slightly but not satisfactorily.

The journey to universal health care for Kenya has not yet been realized pending several impediments. Long has it suffered from epidemics; cholera among them in a densely populated community. Efforts to eliminate the epidemic reservoirs have been thwarted by lack of a collective community responsibility to identify their own health care needs. In Mombasa 453 cases of chikungunya outbreak, including 32 laboratories confirmed cases and 421 suspected cases between mid-December (2017) through to February (2018) were reported. However, there was fewer community health interventions brought forward that could immediately curb the spread of chikungunya fever. (Mombasa Emergency Preparedness Response, 2018)

The absence of rapid Community Health Strategy at the right time will not only pose a health risk but will result in infection of the entire population. This study wanted to understand the impact that the Community Health Strategy

Volume 9 Issue 9, September 2020

[www.ijsr.net](http://www.ijsr.net)

Licensed Under Creative Commons Attribution CC BY

has on the community, and what needs to be changed in order to optimize on the working of the strategy failure to which resources will continually be used for the strategy which may fail to achieve the country's health strategic plan which is in accordance with the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

### 3. Objectives of the Study

The study was guided by the following objectives:

- To establish the influence of epidemic training among Community Health Workers on the management of malaria.
- To investigate how the motivation of the Community Health Workers influences the management of malaria.
- To examine the influence of drugs and test kits on the management of malaria.
- To determine the influence of skills on malaria management.

### 4. Significance of the Study

It is believed that the findings of this study will be useful to the government, non-profit organizations, community health workers, community health extension workers, and the community at large, understand the influence of community health strategy on management of malaria at the community level. The government, via the Ministry of Health, may use the findings to scale up volunteer or paid cadres of community-based health workers, to make the community health strategy more effective. The findings can also be used to effectively plan for, manage, and support these health workers who reach people where they are.

The study will also contribute to the knowledge gap that exists between governments supported CHWs and those that are supported by partners/ donor agencies through the local non-governmental organizations. It will also serve to further research and help develop knowledge regarding how community health strategy influences the management of other health indicators in the community. Findings are also likely to influence policy formulation regarding the role of community health strategy in the management of health indicators in the community. CHWs, CHEWs and the community at large are also likely to benefit in terms of knowledge on their progress with regards to community health strategy.

### 5. Summary of Research findings

The study established that epidemic outbreak training on malaria management was a strategy in which most of the health workers could adapt to combat malaria which constituted 60% of the respondents who participated in the interview. According to Sirima SB & Kidane G found that training CHWs on malaria management represent a valuable means in improving maternal and child health, when well trained, supervised CHWs have exhibited declines in severe malaria and mortality in their communities. Out of 63 response from the health workers, 38 responded between

agreeing and strongly agreeing which was 60.3 percent of the total response. 13 of these fell between disagreeing and strongly disagreeing which constituted to 20.6 percent of the total response. Only 7 were uncertain giving 11.1 percent. The study showed a positive relationship between Epidemic training and Malaria Management projects with a mean 3.61, Standard Deviation of 1.346 and a Pearson Correlation of 0.756.

On the influence of drugs and test kits on the management of malaria projects, the study found out that the majority of the respondents recommended that for management of malaria to be achieved effectively, there should be adequate test kits and medication made readily available at no cost to the affected population. However, the early diagnosis of malaria could only be achieved if the appropriate MRDT is made available on time. Early diagnosis with the right kits will enable early intervention, prevention and or treatment. From a total of 63 respondents, 19 respondents strongly agreed that malaria kits and medication should be readily available and at no cost, this was 30.2 percent. 23 respondents agreed, constituting to 36.5 percent with only 7 being uncertain. 7 respondents strongly disagreed giving 11.1 percent and 4 respondents disagreed constituting 6.3 percent. The study indicated a positive relationship between drugs and test kits and Malaria Management projects with a mean of 3.56, Standard Deviation of 1.323 and a Pearson Correlation of 0.272

The study revealed that motivation of CHWs influence management of malaria projects in Mombasa County with majority (74.6%) of the respondents were certain that they felt good and motivated when community acknowledged their health care services within the community, however, the study also revealed a section of the respondents (11.1%) who did not feel the impact of the community members acknowledging their services to them. Therefore, this study confirmed a close relationship between the motivation of CHWs and the management of malaria projects as one of the most effective strategies in malaria intervention. 45 of the respondents constituting 71.4% felt inspired when they receive moral support from the community, this played a major intrinsic motivational role to the respondents. The study showed a positive relationship between motivation of CHWs and Malaria Management projects with a mean 3.93, Standard Deviation of 1.083 and a Pearson Correlation of 0.491. There was a split decision when it came to material compensation as some workers would wish for the compensation while others would not necessarily wish for the compensation in order to be motivated to work harder to manage malaria, based on the hypothesis that people have distinct needs which inspired their actions, and theorists such as (Maslow, 1954).

The study revealed beyond a reasonable doubt that a malaria project relies on the skills and competency of the service provider (s). This was confirmed when 36 out of 63 respondents, which constituted to 67.1 percent concurred that skills and competencies played a key role in the management of malaria projects. 14 respondents disqualified skills and competencies to have an impact on the management of malaria from the survey. This constituted

22.2 percent. Only 9 respondents were not sure whether skills and competencies were an important aspect. The study showed a positive relationship between skills and Malaria Management projects with a mean 03.54, Standard Deviation of 1.297 and a Pearson Correlation of 0.808.

## 6. Conclusion

It is evident that community health strategy becomes a priority when managing malaria projects in Mombasa County as one of the malaria-endemic Counties in Kenya. Malaria remains a burden in the community without a collaborative combating effort; therefore, this study has discovered the best community strategy that will remain a standing solution to malaria burden in Mombasa County and the entire Nation towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda.

Efficient management of malaria at the community level is informed by various strategies which can best succeed when the solid linkage between the health facilities and community units are strengthened. A collaborative approach to managing malaria projects should consider training Community health workers/volunteers on malaria management and put to task every member's role in identifying health care needs in the community. Absolutely, lack of moral support could thwart the participation of CHWs in not only identifying health care needs to the community but also in managing epidemics regardless of material support/incentives.

CHWs output is swayed by a complex interplay of elements that constitute an aiding work environment and moral support from the community. However, it is evident that not every CHW needs to be motivated to work but rather internally be driven to work irrespective of gender. Although cash enticements might lower attrition rates, boost production and accountability of Community Health Workers, such compensation systems can result in unexpected negative repercussions depending on the way they are managed. Such expenses might affect community support and given that money is never enough, Community Health Workers might require more money and benefits. The performance of CHWs should be internally driven.

Availability of drugs and test kits for malaria is ideal in managing malaria projects in the community would the government increase resource funding as a mitigation measure, then the burden could decrease. This would enable the community to realize the universal healthcare for all and could be able to control communicable diseases.

## 7. Recommendation

Following the findings of the study, the researcher recommends the following;

- 1) The County governments should call for a multi-sectoral approach that ensures Availability of drugs and testing kits to support malaria programs in the malaria-endemic zones
- 2) There is a demand for the government and allies to establish a viable financial incentive as a way of motivating the CHWs. A call for community cooperation and moral support to the CHWs is equally vital.
- 3) There should be a standardised syllabus for training the community Health workers across all counties on Malaria Management. Key stakeholders to be involved in the syllabus preparation.
- 4) Frequent workshops as well as seminars to be organised by the county government so as to ensure the CHWs skills on Management of Malaria are updated as often as possible

## References

- [1] Ajayi, I. O., Browne, E. N., Garshong, B., Bateganya, F., Yusuf, B., Agyei-Baffour, P., Doamekpor, L. ... Pagnoni, F. (January 01, 2008). Feasibility and acceptability of artemisinin-based combination therapy for the home management of malaria in four African sites. *Malaria Journal*, 7, 1, 6.
- [2] Akweongo, P., Agyei-Baffour, P., Sudhakar, M., Simwaka, B. N., Konaté, A. T., Adongo, P. B., Browne, E. N., ... Barnish, G. (January 01, 2011). Feasibility and acceptability of ACT for the community case management of malaria in urban settings in five African sites. *Malaria Journal*, 10.
- [3] Alam, K., Tasneem, S., & Oliveras, E. (January 01, 2012). Retention of female volunteer community health workers in Dhaka urban slums: a case-control study. *Health Policy and Planning*, 27, 6, 477-86.
- [4] Bang, A. T., Bang, R. A., Baitule, S. B., Reddy, M. H., & Deshmukh, M. D. (January 01, 1999). Effect of home-based neonatal care and management of sepsis on neonatal mortality: field trial in rural India. *Lancet (London, England)*, 354, 9194, 1955-61.
- [5] Celletti, F., Wright, A., Palen, J., Frehywot, S., Markus, A., Greenberg, A., de, A. R. A., ... Samb, B. (January 01, 2010). Can the deployment of community health workers for the delivery of HIV services represent an effective and sustainable response to health workforce shortages? Results of a multicountry study. *Aids (London, England)*, 24, 45-57
- [6] Dieleman, M., Toonen, J., Touré, H., & Martineau, T. (December 01, 2006). The match between motivation and performance management of health sector workers in Mali. *Human Resources for Health*, 4, 1, 1-7.
- [7] Kangovi, S., Mitra, N., Grande, D., White, M. L., McCollum, S., Sellman, J., Shannon, R. P., ... Long, J. A. (January 01, 2014). Patient-centered community health worker intervention to improve posthospital outcomes: a randomized clinical trial. *Jama Internal Medicine*, 174, 4, 535-43.
- [8] Kidane, G., & Morrow, R. H. (January 01, 2000). Teaching mothers to provide home treatment of malaria in Tigray, Ethiopia: A randomized trial. *Lancet (print)*, 550-555.
- [9] Kironde, S., & Klaasen, S. (January 01, 2002). What motivates lay volunteers in high burden but resource-limited tuberculosis control programs? Perceptions from the Northern Cape province, South Africa. *The*

*International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease: The Official Journal of the International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease*, 6, 2, 104-10.

- [10] Maes, K., & Kalofonos, I. (June 01, 2013). Becoming and remaining community health workers: Perspectives from Ethiopia and Mozambique. *Social Science & Medicine*, 87, 52-59.
- [11] Yeboah-Antwi, K., Pilingana, P., Macleod, W. B., Semrau, K., Siazele, K., Kalesha, P., Hamainza, B., ... Whitty, C. J. M. (September 21, 2010). Community Case Management of Fever Due to Malaria and Pneumonia in Children Under Five in Zambia: A Cluster Randomized Controlled Trial. *Plus Medicine*, 7, 9.)