Healthy Child Uganda (HCU): Partnering in Malaria Control

MACIS: Fresh Air Malaria Workshop
April 2, 2009
Presented by:
Teddy Kyomuhangi
HCU Project Manager

Improving Child Health Through Community Education
Improving Child Health Through Community Education

Introduction

• Started in November 2003
• Aim: promote child health using the integrated management of childhood illnesses (IMCI) program.
• HCU trains health centre trainers and Community Owned Resource Persons (CORPS) who are volunteer educators selected by their own villages.

Improving Child Health Through Community Education
Improving Child Health Through Community Education

Partners

- Canadian International Development Agency
- Agence canadienne de développement international
- Healthy Child Uganda
- Omwaana N'Amagara Marungi
- University of Calgary
- Healthy Generations
- Canadian Paediatric Society
- Dalhousie University
Healthy Child Uganda

• Under Umbrella of Faculty of Medicine
• Canadian & Ugandan Paediatricians noted that there was severe morbidity and mortality on the Child (Toto) ward of Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital
• Need for community interventions
Pilot Project: 2003-04

- **Pilot area**
  - Covered 6 parishes with a population ~ 25,000 in Mbarara & Bushenyi districts.

- **Capacity building:**
  - Community Owned Resource Persons (CORPS)
  - Undergraduate students
  - Faculty/Staff
  - Health workers
  - Project team
Healthy Child Uganda (2005-2010)

- Current coverage - 18 parishes (177 villages) in Mbarara & Bushenyi.
- Population ~ 100,000
- 17 HC trainers, 18 CORP trainers & 340 CORPs
- 18,000 Child beneficiaries per year
- 31,000 Child beneficiaries cumulatively
- 45,000 person training hours delivered
- Annual program cost per child 9000 UGX
Baseline Survey 2006

• Survey covered 1,123 households
• HCU identified 6 major challenges to focus future programming and interventions
• Malaria, water scarcity/diarrhoea, malnutrition/food security, newborn health, poverty, & health care access.
Survey findings on malaria

• 32% of children reported to have been ill with fever/malaria within the past 2 weeks
• 36% of <5 deaths in the past were attributed to malaria/fever
• 14% of the households were seen to have mosquito nets hanging
• 4% of children age 0-23 months had slept under a mosquito net the previous night
HCU Malaria Interventions

• 13,500 bed nets for U5s and Pregnant mothers (most donated by BUY A NET (BAN))
• Distributed Nov 07-June 08

• Net distribution accompanied by health messages, weighing, immunizations; promotion of bush clearing, draining stagnant waters, U5 and pregnant mothers sleeping under ITNs, closing doors, widows in evening, seeking health care for children with danger signs
Malaria Interventions (cont.)

- Model home competitions emphasize clearing bushy areas & stagnant water.
- Malaria focused education using puppets, health talks, school talks
Malaria Interventions (cont.)

- Student placements for nursing and medical students; activities are malaria health talks, home visits & HC activities.

- Health centre trainers (mostly nurses) & CORP trainings on malaria.

- CORPs teach parents about danger signs, not delaying care and importance of seeking medical (versus traditional) treatment for Malaria.
Field experiences

- Communities actively participating in planning & training and excited about receiving bed nets
- In coming reports show a very positive trend on bed net usage
- Net purchase prioritised in order to have more than one net per home. (Some parishes have formed groups which buy a net for a member monthly)
Improving Child Health Through Community Education

(Field experiences cont.)

• CORPs monitor monthly net use from Dec 07 to Dec 08
• 91% of homes checked had nets hanging
• 97% of homes with nets hanging report that pregnant mothers or under fives are sleeping under the nets
Thank You!

www.healthychilduganda.org

Improving Child Health Through Community Education
“I learned something I never knew and even made friends. [HCU] has also benefited my family since I now grow fruits and vegetables. I used to think malaria was not a serious disease, but now I know its effects, especially in children. I am proud to be a part of Healthy Child Uganda.”

-Volunteer, Kitunguru Village