

M&E of Malaria Control Programs

Building Capacity through Regional Workshops

MEASURE Evaluation and implementing partners, Centre de Recherche en Santé de Nouna (CRSN), Burkina Faso and University of Ghana School of Public Health (UGSPH), Ghana, implemented regional Anglophone and Francophone workshops from 2010 to 2014 to strengthen capacity in the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of malaria, in response to increased funding for malaria control programs in sub-Saharan Africa and a need for strong information system support to inform malaria program planning.

Workshop Objectives

- Provide participants with fundamental concepts and practical approaches to M&E of malaria programs
- Discuss programmatic applications of the main tools and data systems used to monitor and evaluate malaria programs
- Provide a venue for participants to share and learn from other country experiences to strengthen their M&E systems
- Provide participants with hands-on experience in developing M&E plans

Target Audience of the Workshops

Staff from National Malaria Control Programs, nongovernmental organizations and donor personnel and others with a professional interest in M&E of malaria control programs.

Organization of the Workshop

Teaching methods included a participant knowledge assessment, plenary sessions, discussions, continuous workshop evaluation, group project work, data analysis, and a field visit. Group work was a key component of the course and groups followed a step-by-step process to develop an M&E plan focused on a specific malaria control intervention.



Anglophone workshops were held at the University of Ghana, School of Public Health in Accra, Ghana and Francophone workshops were held at the University of Ouagadougou, School of Medicine in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Course content included:

- Overview of Malaria in sub-Saharan Africa
- Using Data for Decision Making
- Introduction to M&E concepts
- Developing M&E Plans
- M&E Frameworks
- M&E Indicators
- M&E Data Sources
- Impact Evaluation
- Data Analysis, Interpretation and Presentation

Between 2010 and 2014, 400 applications were received and 181 participants completed the workshops (see Figure 1).



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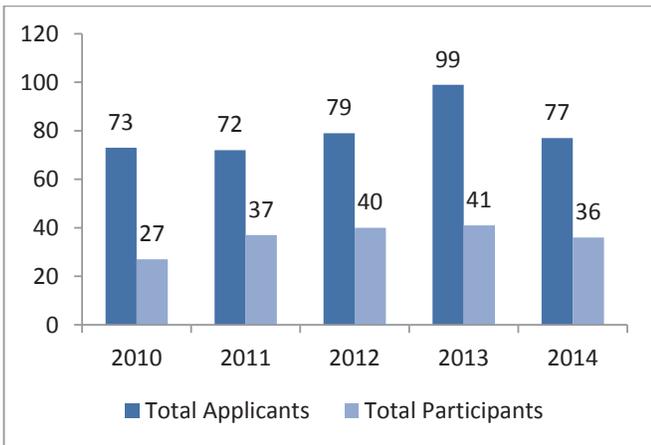


Figure 1: Total applicants and participants by year.

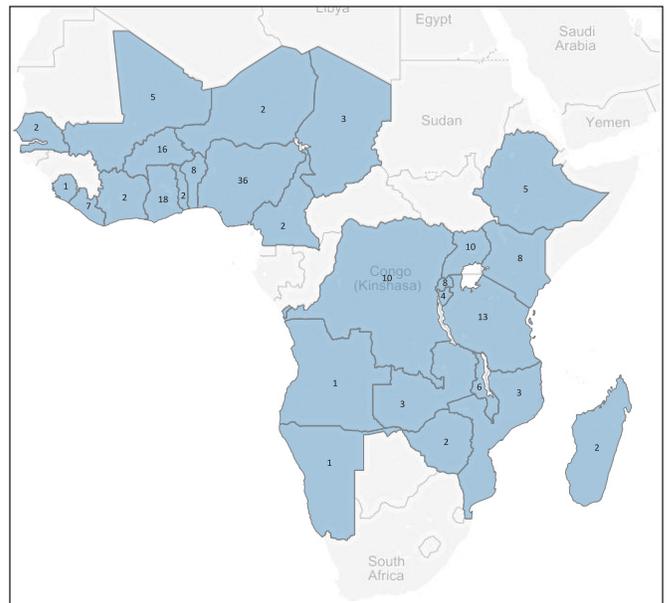


Figure 2: Number of participants by country.

Was There a Gain in Knowledge?

Relative improvement per individual increased each year in both Anglophone and Francophone workshops (see Figure 3).

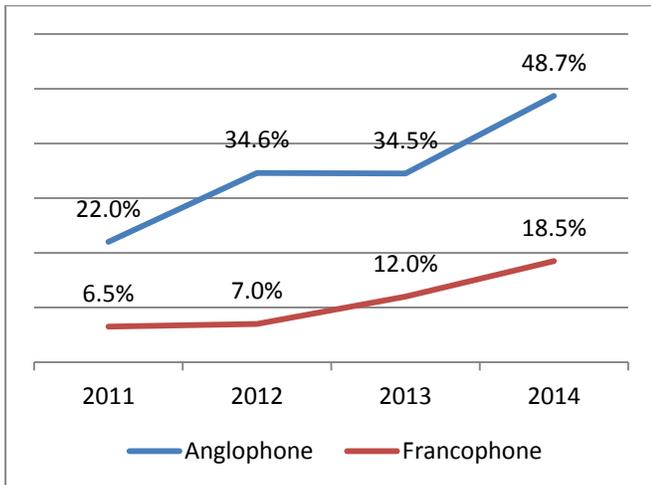


Figure 3: Relative improvement between pre-test to post-test per year.

Potential Impact of the Trainings

The workshops helped individuals in their immediate work. Comments from participants:

“...immediately after the workshop I was part of a team that was assigned to review our project M&E plan ... and most of my contributions to the process were based on what I learnt from the workshop. To be specific, when it came to developing an indicator reference sheet/matrix, we actually used the template developed by my workshop group members as an example.”

“I participated the workshop with newly recruited staff and I was able to handover most of my routine M&E work to him. Now I have more time to work with

assisting implementing partners and critically review their PMPs. Recently I was called for taking lead in impact evaluation of the project and hoping to use some of the learning from the workshop.”

“Currently, all M&E plans for the implementing partners I work with have been approved. The elements learned during the M&E training helped me guide the partners in the development of good M&E plans.”

Partnerships

After five years of workshop implementation, MEASURE Evaluation has established solid partnerships with CRSN and UGSPH. These two partners are capable of organizing future workshops and providing M&E expertise on the ground.

Demand for Country-focused Trainings

These regional workshops have generated demand for country-focused trainings. Fifty participants were trained in Kenya in 2011 and twenty-seven in Democratic Republic of Congo in 2013. Additional country-focused trainings are currently under discussion in Tanzania and Liberia.

Many alumni have become facilitators for country-focused workshops.

Next Steps

MEASURE Evaluation will assess the effect of these workshops on national malaria information systems and perform a malaria M&E capacity needs assessment. The curriculum will be redesigned to include tracks that allow participants to pursue M&E topics most relevant to their individual and country needs. Tracks will be chosen based on the results from the needs assessment. Country workshops will be organized on demand.

