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Malaria Update

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Dr. Bhim Acharya, Director of EDCC presenting malaria program overview during Multi-Stakeholder Meeting on 15th March, 2018 at Hotel Radisson, Kathmandu.

Inter-district Observation Visit for Malaria Program

Epidemiology & Disease Control Division (EDCD) with the support of Global Fund/Save the Children organized an inter-district observation visit for staffs of DHOs/DPHOs. The main objective of the inter-district visit (2 from each district malaria focal person and lab) was to share their experiences as well as observe the best practices in other districts. This would inadvertently aim to encourage them to replicate the best practices of other district into their own district and rectify any programmatic weakness internally.

The visit was conducted from 3rd March to 9th March where 2 teams moved in opposite directions; team 'A' from Eastern to Far-Western region and team 'B' from Far-Western to Eastern region. Team A comprised of 31 participants from Ilam, Jhapa, Morang, Dhankuta, Saptari, Sunsari, Siraha, Sarlahi, Dhanusa, Udaypur, Sindhuli, Mahottari, Rautahat, Bara and Makwanpur.

Similarly, in team B there were altogether 32 participants from Doti, Dadeldhura, Baitadi, Kanchanpur, Kailali, Banke, Bardiya, Surkhet, Dang, Kapilbastu, Rupandehi, Parasi, Nawalpur, Kaski and Chitwan.

Team 'A' started their journey from Jhapa whilst observing the DHOs/DPHOs and a model health facility in Dhanusa, Chitwan, Kapilbastu and Kanchanpur. Whereas Team 'B' started their excursion visit from Kanchanpur where they observed DHOs/DPHOs and selected health facilities in Chitwan, Jhapa, Dhanusa and Banke. In each designated stop, malaria focal person/ DHO from the respective district presented the status of malaria cases in the district and the implementation of malaria activities. They also observed recording and reporting system of malaria program. This observation visit helped participants to get acquainted with one another as well as share knowledge & ideas about the various program activities thereby learning the best practices to replicate in their own districts.



Banner in a bus for inter-district observation tour (left) and information sharing at DPHO, Dhanusa during the inter-country tour visit.

Regional Review Meeting



Participants from mid-western & far-western region in the program conducting at Nepalgunj.

Epidemiology & Disease Control Division (EDCD) organized a regional review meeting for western, mid-western and far-western region. The objective of the program was to collect annual progress report and get update on the program activities of malaria program from all the districts.

The program for western region was conducted from 3rd to 5th January at Pokhara with 74 participants from 11 districts namely Rupandehi, Kaski, Nawalparasi, Kapilvastu, Arghakhanchi, Palpa, Parbat, Gulmi, Syangja, Tanahu and Gorkha.

Similarly, the program for mid-western and far-western was conducted from 11th to 13th January at Nepalgunj with 94 participants from 15 districts which included Banke, Bardiya, Surkhet, Dang, Dailekh, Salyan, Mugu, Pyuthan, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Dadeldhura, Doti, Baitadi, Bajura, and Achham.

The participants were directors from RHDs, D/PHOs including Focal Person, Finance, Statistics and Storekeeper from the regional health directorate and district health office. All the participants presented the status of malaria and the updates on malaria program being conducted in their respective districts.

During the program, an overview of national malaria elimination program was presented by Dr. Bhim Acharya, Director of EDCCD at Pokhara and by Dr. Bibek Kumar Lal, Sr. Health Administrator at Nepalgunj. There were presentations from different experts and resource persons to inform & orient the participants on various topics such as; case based surveillance, foci investigation, malaria disease information system, logistic management, malaria indicators, QA/QC. At the same there was a presentation to share the major findings of mid-term review and audit/financial review. The program was also helpful to identify gaps & challenges in districts during program implementation.

Malaria Microscopic Trainings

During this period, 2 batches for each Basic Malaria Microscopic Training and Malaria Microscopic Refresher Training organized in DPHO Kanchanpur. There were total 23 participants in Basic Malaria Microscopic Training from different health facilities of Kailali, Kanchanpur, Doti, Dadeldhura, Achham, Banke, Bajura and Bara districts. The first batch training was conducted from 29th January to 27th February and the later from 28th February to 29th March, 2018.

Similarly there were total 20 participants in Microscopic Refresher Training from different health facilities of Rupandehi, Nawalparasi, Dadeldhura, Baglung, Darchula, Doti, Makwanpur, Kailali and Kanchanpur districts. The first batch training was conducted from 4th to 18th January and the later was from 9th to 15th March, 2018.



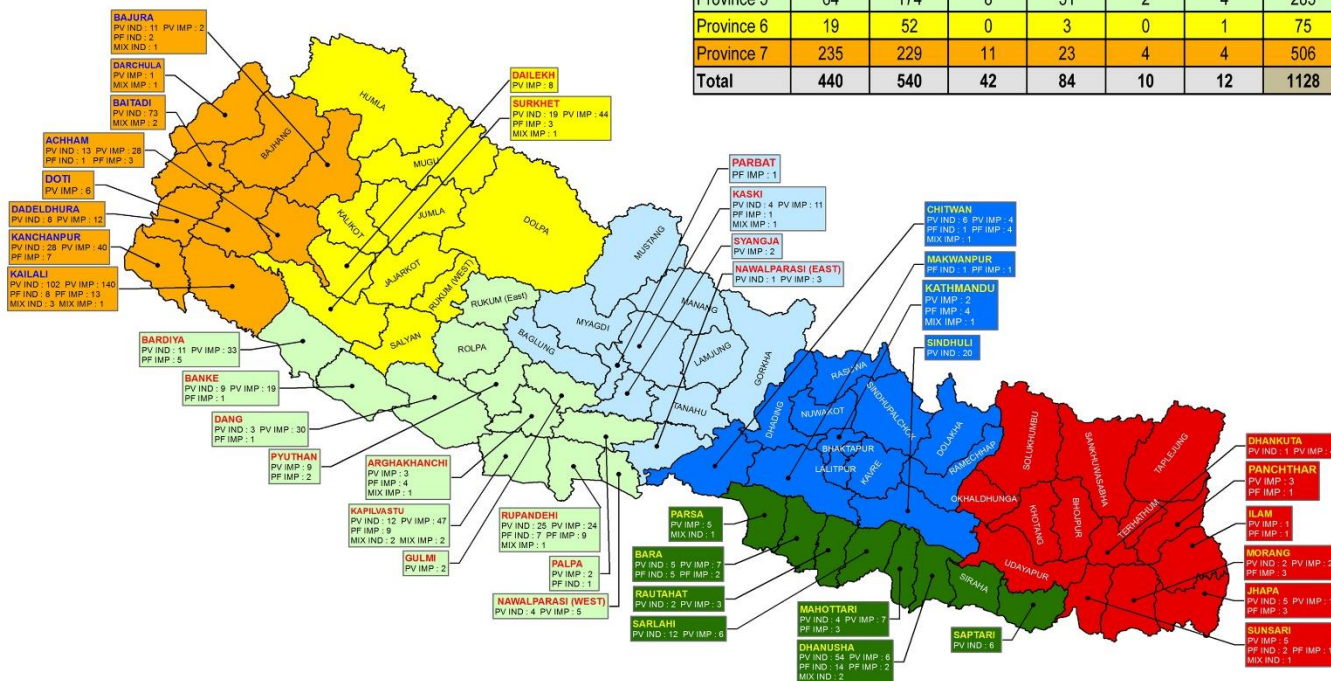
Participants in Malaria Microscopic Refresher Training.

Case Investigation

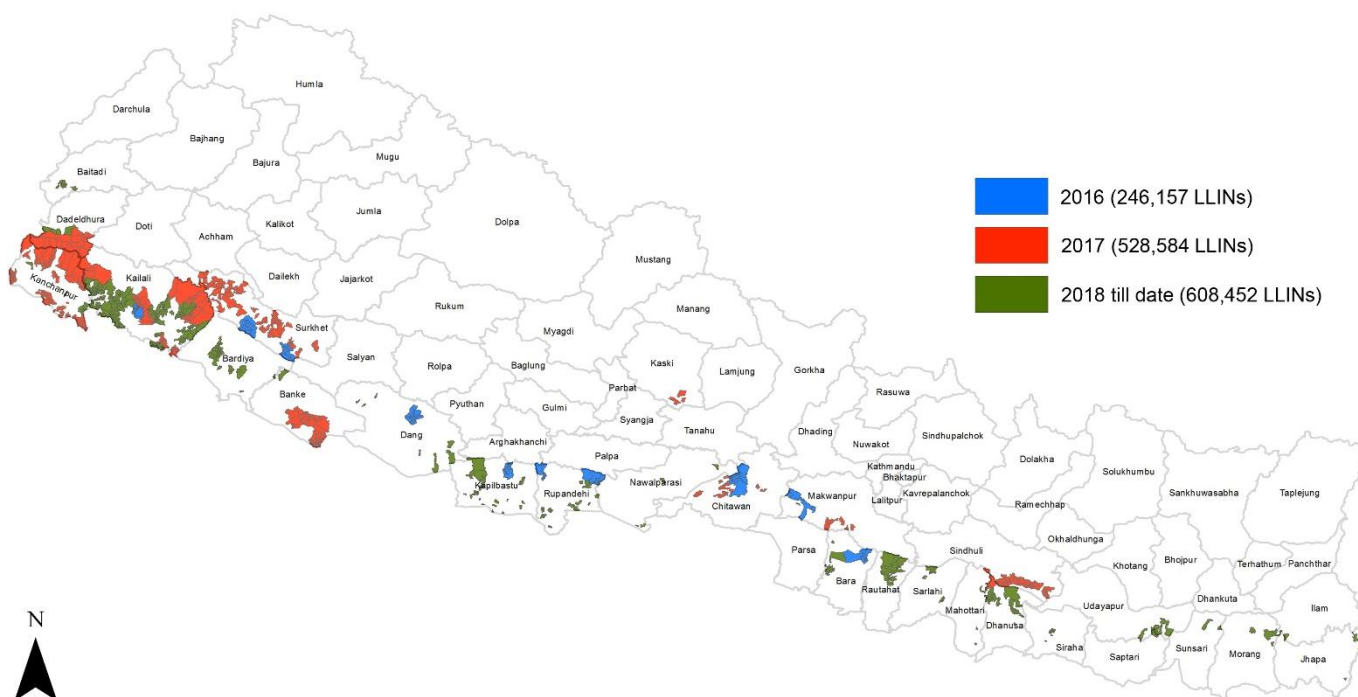
Case based surveillance (CBS) is the major activity for any malaria program. Currently all the positive cases in the community are investigated by a team comprising of district & local health facilities. The team follows the 1/3/7 model for CBS where a positively diagnosed case must be treated and notified (through MDIS) within 24 hours and should be fully investigated within 3 days of detection. A foci investigation and response should be done for all indigenous cases within 7 days. A total of 679 cases were investigated between 16th Jul, 2017 to 15th Mar, 2018, however, only 629 cases were notified in MDIS through SMS (50 cases not reported). Among the investigated cases, 623 cases were vivax, 52 cases were falciparum malaria. Four cases were mixed infections (Pv and Pf). 50% cases were imported from outside the country. During this period, the highest case notification was from Kailali district (142).

Distribution of Malaria Cases in FY 2073/074

Province	PV IND	PV IMP	PF IND	PF IMP	MIX IND	MIX IMP	Total
Province 1	8	29	2	9	1	0	49
Province 2	83	34	19	7	3	0	146
Province 3	26	6	2	9	0	2	45
Province 4	5	16	0	2	0	1	24
Province 5	64	174	8	31	2	4	283
Province 6	19	52	0	3	0	1	75
Province 7	235	229	11	23	4	4	506
Total	440	540	42	84	10	12	1128



Mass distribution of LLINs in the year 2016, 2017 & 2018 (till date)



Case Study: 'Right decision at the right time'

60 year old Lilaram migrated from Dailekh to Surkhet 30 years back. He starts his day at 4am, milking his cattle and delivering milk from 5-7am. The remaining part of the day he looks after his crops. Even though his residence falls under Birendranagar Municipality, his house resembles one from rural Nepali villages. Housing conditions are poor with houseflies & mosquitoes in abundance among a mixed dwelling of cattle and humans.

One morning Lilaram woke up with a severe headache and was unable to do his regular activities. What followed were bouts of fever, with chills and rigor and subsided with drenching sweats. His wife describes, 'he is very active and hardly ever falls sick'. However, this time, he assumed it was the end of his days. He had never experienced something like this before. He felt his neck stiffen and tilt to one side along with swelling of his tongue where he couldn't speak, it was getting worse.

He shared his experience, 'every year and sometimes twice a year, I suffer from fever. Usually I visit private clinics and condition improves after taking medicines from there'. He suspected it might be typhoid. He would have considered visiting a private practitioner however with just 500 rupees in his pocket he opted for a free testing at a public health post. The test at the health post indicated that he had falciparum malaria and he was treated immediately as per national malaria treatment protocol. A team comprised of health worker from district and local health facility visited his residence and conducted a thorough case based surveillance around his household for any symptomatic cases. No additional cases were found by the investigating team around his locality.

After treatment Lilaram is now free of symptoms. He has regained his energy and is back to his daily activities. He shows his gratitude and appreciation to the health post for correctly diagnosing his illness and timely treatment.

Glimpse of Program Activities



Participants presenting the status of their district on Regional Review Meeting of western region at Pokhara, Kaski.



Group picture of participants on Malaria Basic Microscopic Training at DPHO, Kanchanpur.



Malaria PMU team meeting from 26th to 28th February to update on the program activities and planning for the next period.

