

# Zambia National Malaria Control Centre

## Monitoring and Evaluation Newsletter



### Issue No. 1: Third Quarter 2009

Welcome to the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Newsletter of the Zambia National Malaria Control Centre (NMCC). The newsletter is produced by malaria control partners to exchange information and news relevant to malaria control progress in the country.

We hope this newsletter will stimulate discussion and sharing of ideas for reporting on progress in malaria control activities around the country. We encourage you to contact us at [me@nmcc.org.zm](mailto:me@nmcc.org.zm) with ideas, success stories and features relevant for sharing with the national malaria M&E community.

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### Progress in malaria control

The national Health Management Information System (HMIS) is the foundation of information for gauging district performance across the health sector. HMIS provides malaria information related to outpatient, inpatient attendance and deaths from health facilities across the country. The most recently compiled information for all districts on malaria case reports is presented below by province. The 2008 Annual Statistical Bulletin is being prepared for distribution which reflects on the burden of malaria related to reported malaria cases and case fatality rates.

HMIS has recently undergone an extensive revision provision which has expanded malaria relevant indicators! New information which will be collected and available nationally includes intermittent preventive treatment and malaria case confirmation with diagnostics such as microscopy and rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs). This new information will help keep the malaria control services delivered through facilities on track and provide accurate data to guide policy decisions and program implementation.

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### Data for decision making

The National Malaria Control Centre is gearing up for a large-scale Health Facility Survey 2009 which measures the progress in delivering malaria services through health facilities, including the availability of malaria diagnostic capacity, quality of malaria case management, and general facility capacities to offer malaria and other services. The survey uses state-of-the-art personal digital assistants (PDAs) for speeding data entry and data processing for a generalized facility audit.

The facility survey is being supported through numerous partners. It will provide critical evidence of progress in malaria control program efforts to better diagnose and treat malaria cases presenting in clinics throughout the country.

Photo: Survey field staff practice the use of PDAs for entering questionnaire data.



## Capacity Development Initiative Kicks Off in Macha

From 2-15 August 2009, the National Malaria Control Program, with support from Fogarty International Centre, Johns Hopkins University, University of Zambia School of Medicine Malaria Research Unit (UNZA SMUTH/MRU) and the Malaria Control and Evaluation Partnership in Africa (MACEPA), convened the first annual Malaria Training and Research Capacity Building in Southern Africa (MTCBSA) training workshop at the Malaria Institute at Macha (MIAM) in Macha, Choma District, Zambia. Participants and facilitators gathered from district, provincial and national health offices along with select international research colleagues from Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zimbabwe and the United States.

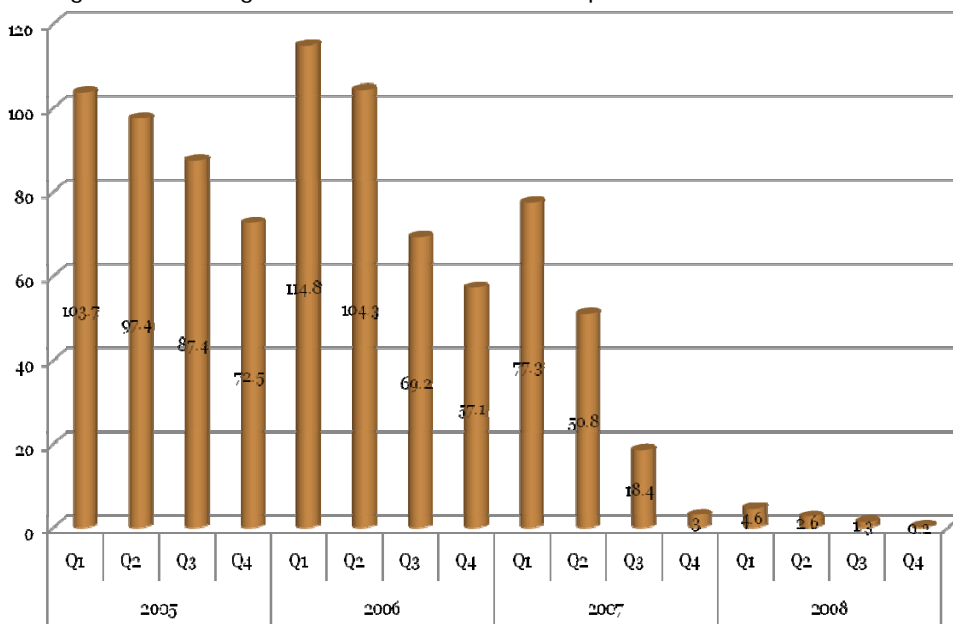
The international workshop focused on updating participants with state of the art techniques and knowledge and malaria research and control efforts as well as showcasing progress made in Zambia in the fight against malaria. Proceedings were officially presided over by Dr. V. Mtonga, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health.



Photo: Dr. James Chipeta, UNZA SMUTH/MRU. Participants examine slides in Macha laboratories.

## District Basket – Kazungula District reporting dramatic declines in malaria

Progress in malaria control is evident in many districts. Kazungula District Health Office has reported remarkable progress in controlling malaria through the use of a combination of prevention and treatment interventions. The district has been increasing coverage of indoor residual spraying (IRS) since 2005 to more than 20,000 structures. In addition, more than 21,000 ITNs have been distributed to communities at no cost. Kazungula has also been an early implementer of community health worker-led testing and treatment services which has extended the front line of malaria testing and treatment right into the heart of communities.



This figure shows reported malaria incidence (per 1000) by quarter from 18 facilities as a result of these interventions as well as the improving ability to precisely define malaria cases through the use of rapid diagnostic tests which have been introduced in the district since 2007. At facility level, separating malaria from other non-malaria fevers has enabled clinicians to dramatically reduce reported malaria cases.

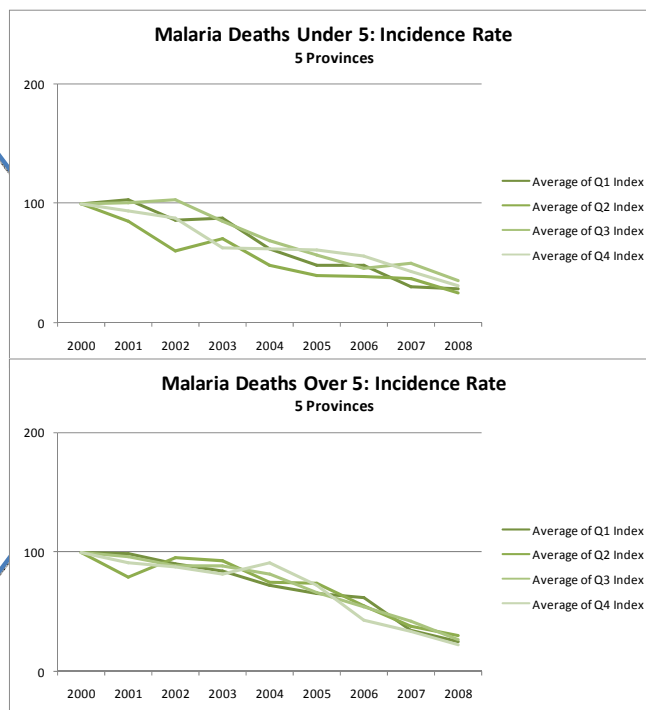
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## Partner's corner – Data Integration and Analysis Trainings

In 2009, the NMCC and a number of partners, including Harvard University, Malaria Consortium, WHO, and MACEPA have initiated a series of district data integration and analysis workshops. Through September 2009, workshops have been conducted in 5 provinces and have helped improve the completeness, correctness and consistency of malaria information in the HMIS available for district, provincial and national-level interpretation of HMIS malaria data.

### CLEANEST AVAILABLE HMIS DATA

Holding the data review workshops has allowed us to get a clear picture of the malaria trend in the 5 provinces where data has been cleaned. The workshops allow us to gather the latest available data, fill in gaps at the national level, and correct for missing reports



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## Zambia to participate in a regional Capacity Building meeting on anti-malarial medicine therapeutic efficacy testing

The need for quality and safe anti-malarial medicines necessitates regular monitoring of their therapeutic efficacy and their use in treatment. On 27-29<sup>th</sup> October, 2009, the World Health Organisation will hold a capacity building meeting on therapeutic efficacy testing for selected countries including Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe and has invited three participants from Zambia to benefit from the capacity building workshop.

### Upcoming events

27-29 October 2009	Regional Meeting on Therapeutic Efficacy Testing, Harare, Zimbabwe
Oct-Nov 2009	District Data Integration Workshops (Western, Central, Northern, Lusaka)
Oct-Nov 2009	RDT/ACT facility data collection Kazungula / Mumbwa
9-14 November 2009	SADC Malaria Week / Child Health Week
Nov-Dec 2009	Health Facilities Survey – field work
Nov-Dec 2009	Malaria Transmission Consortium (MTC) survey field work (Luangwa/Nyimba)
April-May 2010	Malaria Indicator Survey (MIS) 2010 – field work
25 April 2010	World Malaria Day

For more information, visit the National Malaria Control Centre website, [www.nmcc.org.zm](http://www.nmcc.org.zm), or contact the Monitoring and Evaluation Team at the National Malaria Control Centre at [me@nmcc.org.zm](mailto:me@nmcc.org.zm).