

Healthy Child
UGANDA



Omwaana
N'Amagara
Marungi

Healthy Child Uganda (HCU): Partnering in Malaria Control



**MACIS: Fresh Air
Malaria Workshop**

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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.





Partners



Improving Child Health Through Community Education



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)**





(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



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Thank You!



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“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