

Malaria during Pregnancy

Rapid Assessment

General Issues

Objectives of Rapid Assessment

- Measure extent of the problem of malaria among pregnant women and its effect on their newborns
- Determine the potential for interventions through antenatal clinics
- Determine ways to improve current interventions
- Build national capacity for operational research

Potential Sources of Information

- Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS)
- Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS)
- Malaria Indicator Surveys (MIS)
- RBM Baseline Surveys
- National Routine Health Information Systems (HIS)
- Reports by NGOs
- Medical literature

When more information is needed (I)

Topic	Information	Module
Size of the problem	<p>Measures of effect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Prevalence of peripheral malaria and anemia-Relationship of malaria to LBW and prematurity-Illness due to severe malaria disease	<p>1: ANC surveys</p> <p>2: Delivery unit surveys</p> <p>3: Severe disease surveillance</p>

When more information is needed (II)

Topic	Information		Module	
Opportunities	-Sources of care		4: Antenatal clinic facility assessment	
	-Extent of coverage of currently recommended interventions		5: Health-care worker observation	
			6: FG Health workers	
			7: FG TBA	
			8: Client exit interviews	
			9: FG with pregnant women	
			10: FG key informants	

Survey Timetable

Weeks

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| ■ Planning the assessment | 2-4 |
| ■ Pre-assessment preparations | 2-3 |
| ■ Assessment training | 1 |
| ■ Start up assessment | 2 |
| ■ Assessment | 8-9 |
| ■ Post-assessment | 8 |

Planning the assessment

- Determine which assessment components need to be conducted
- Determine what approvals are needed
- Identify local partners (e.g., university, NGOs)

Approvals

- May need approval from institutional review board or ethics committee:
 - Scientific content (e.g., scientific steering committee)
Ethics (ethics review committee): consent form
 - Sometimes approval of more than 1 group needed
 - University, MOH, large hospital, institution such as CDC or WHO
 - Program evaluation may be exempted from need for approval
- Situation varies country by country

Consent Form/Information Sheet

- Purpose & procedures
- Risk & discomfort
- Potential benefits
- Provision of confidentiality
- Contacts for additional information
- Voluntary participation and right to discontinue without penalty
- Any other relevant information

Consent Form/Information Sheet: Considerations

- Reading level
- How to make sure the participant is informed?
- If informed consent, who can sign the form: how are adults defined? How are adolescent pregnancies considered? How to sign? What is the role of a witness?
- Translation

Potential Partners

- Universities in country
- Universities overseas
- NGOs with expertise in this field
- Scientific organizations in your country, e.g., a medical council, field station (technical support)
- Ministry / Department of Health
- Private health organizations

Pre-assessment

- Select sites
- Select time
- Prepare the community
- Hire team or identify staff
- Adapt and translate questionnaire
- Pretest questionnaire
- Identify training site
- Manage logistics of training
- Arrange for training

Select Site

- To obtain representative data from the area of interest:
 - Objectives guide the selection: countrywide, or certain districts?
 - Transmission pattern of malaria
- Practical considerations:
 - Sufficiently high volume at ANC or DU
 - Ability to gain access
 - Representativeness of the facility population
 - Geographic representativeness of the site

Select Time

Schedule assessment during high transmission season
(during or after rainy season)

- Feasibility?: access
- Health facilities open?
- Staff available during that period?

Hire team/identify staff: hire team

Staffing approach	Advantages	Disadvantages
Hire new staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Control■ Simple Payment■ Does not compromise the delivery of clinical care	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ No capacity building■ Existing staff may resent outsiders■ May be more expensive■ Does not help with future interventions■ May compromise assessment quality if non-medical staff do not have sufficient training■ May be more difficult to ensure treatment of women with anemia or malaria■ MOH may feel less invested in the assessment

Hire team/identify staff: identify staff

Staffing approach	Advantages	Disadvantages
Use existing health staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Builds capacity■ Facilitates enrollment■ Facilitates clinical treatment when indicated■ Builds morale■ Ownership of assessment■ Buy-in for future interventions■ Monetary assistance to underpaid staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ May overburden busy staff■ May take priority over regular work■ Delicate payment issues■ Staff may think that any work requires extra payment■ May compromise quality of assessment in busy setting■ May be competing with projects going on simultaneously

Adapting Assessment Material

- Which instruments:
 - Questionnaires
 - Information sheets/consent forms
 - Observation forms
- Examples of variables that may need to be adapted:
 - Names of drugs
 - Languages/ethnic groups
 - Materials for house construction
 - Socio-economic indicators
 - Culturally sensitive questions (LMP, marital status)
- Review and pretest the changes

Translation

- After adaptation
- Translate and back-translate by different persons
- Critically read the back-translation to assess if the context is as intended, change accordingly
- During training, new adaptations or changes in translations may be proposed
- If primary language not a written language, train in correct consistent phrasing of questions by interviewers

Training

- Prepare training material: handbook for interviewers, test questionnaires, presentations, example logbooks, etc.
- Identify training site
- Manage logistics of training
- Arrange on site training
 - Note that during the training with the input of the team, questionnaires may need to be modified, logbook layout changed, information sheet improved: allow time for adaptation before start of study
 - Include a practical part with “real” clients

Last Preparations for Assessment

- Finalize questionnaire, information sheet, logbooks
- Arrange logistics and supplies
- Institute quality control system (check, check and double-check)
- Prepare for data management (create entry screens or files)