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Malaria Update

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Director's observation in review of malaria program in central region. Dr. Basudev Pandey (left) and Dr. Bhim Acharya at the front desk.

Annual Regional Review on Malaria Program

Epidemiology & Disease Control Division (EDCD) organized 3 days annual regional review on national malaria elimination program. During this period, the review meetings were conducted in the eastern and central region on 7th and 12th of November, 2017 respectively.

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. It was also helpful to identify the gaps, challenges facing by districts while implementing the program activities. The program was successful in making the participants aware on the requirements on usage of the Global Fund funded budget for program implementation.

Regional and district directors, focal persons, finance personnel, store keepers and statistical personnel from the malaria endemic districts attended the program held at Sunsari and Kathmandu.

In the eastern region program, there were participants from DPHO/DHOs of Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari, Siraha, Saptari, Udaypur, Dhankuta, Panchthar & Ilam districts. Regional Health Director, Dr. Mahesh Kumar Khanal, actively participated in the program who during the closing ceremony also addressed the queries raised by the participants regarding policy level decisions and overall provided direction to his team towards malaria elimination.

In Kathmandu, DPHO/DHOs of Dhanusa, Rautahat, Sindhuli, Bara, Chitwan, Mahottari, Makwanpur, Sarlahi, Sindhupalchok, Kavrepalanchok, Parsa, Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur attended the meeting held for the central region. Regional Health Director, Dr. Basudev Pandey, showed his commitment to give his direction to those districts that actually needs to improve for better performance. He also encouraged participants to keep the record and reporting properly. Dr. Bhim Acharya, Director of EDCC chaired both the programs, and delivered a vote of thanks to all the participants. He emphasized the role of districts and regional team for effective program implementation to help the country in its quest to reach elimination by 2026.



Participants in the regional review program of Eastern Region.

Micro-stratification Report 2016



Formally release of Malaria Micro-stratification Report 2016.

Epidemiology & Disease Control Division (EDCD) organized a program to disseminate the malaria micro-stratification report of 2016. The final document was officially released by Dr. Bhim Acharya, Director of EDCD.

The program basically focused to share the overall process & findings of the ward level micro-stratification which was conducted in 2016. The stratification has narrowed down the risk areas from VDCs/Municipalities into wards as recommended by the MTR of 2013. This stratification report is important for malaria program as it helps dictate strategic decisions to take the country into elimination with focused programs and activities in the malaria risk areas in Nepal. Though the study was conducted in 2016, it incorporated data from the year 2012-2016.

The result showed 54 high risk wards and 370 moderate risk wards from 130 municipalities/VDCs in 27 districts (54 high risk VDCs and 201 moderate risk VDCs in earlier 2013 micro-stratification). It also highlighted that 1,69,747 people resided in high risk areas while 13,57,723 lived in moderate risk areas.

Microscopy Refresher Training

Microscopic Refresher Training on malaria conducted in training hall at DPHO Kanchanpur. The 14 days training started on 9th of November, 2017 included total 15 participants from Morang, Sunsari, Siraha, Dhanusa, Chitwan, Sarlahi, Bara, Dadeldhura districts and National Public Health Laboratory, Kathmandu.

The objective of the training was to reboot skills of laboratory staffs and develop their capacity in malaria microscopy with an aim to strengthen the quality lab services in local health facilities. The training was successful in building the capacity of the participants to identify species and stages of malaria parasites.

Moreover, they gained skills to count the density of parasites in the slides prepared.

During the training session, each topic was presented in detail by the certified trainers. The theory session also included regular practical periods where the participants tested their skills to relate the knowledge into practice. Pre and post-analysis of the participants demonstrated that the training program has significantly improved the microscopic skills of the participants in diagnosing various types of malaria parasites.

Module Design Workshop for Malaria Microscopy Training

A module design workshop for malaria microscopy training started from 28th to 30th November 2017 at Grand Hotel,



Kathmandu. The program was organized by EDCD and was supported by Save the Children-Global Fund.

The objective of the program was to develop malaria microscopy guidelines for trainers and trainees. The review program worked cohesively to update the existing malaria microscopy training SOPs incorporating suggestions and recommendation from concerned experts who attended the event. This three day program helped draft a defined course module, duration of various types of training for beginners to trained staff, and the minimum qualification of the facilitators.

The manual design process adopted different methods such as presentation, group discussion and experts' opinion simultaneously based on previous manual developed by VBDRTC. The first two days of the workshop focused on the content, methods and prerequisites of a facilitator required to conduct malaria microscopy training while the third day focused on the quality assurance mechanism of malaria microscopy in Nepal. The workshop identified the challenges and recommended to condense the course duration of basic malaria microscopy and refresher training. Similarly, the workshop recommended updating and changing the picture adopted from CDC and formatting the manual in a systematic way to make learner friendly. All the final output from the workshop would be taken to the TWG meeting for endorsement.

External Competency Assessment on Malaria Microscopy



Lecture by WHO lead facilitator, Mr. Ken Lilley.

External Competency Assessment on Malaria was conducted from 10th to 14th December, 2017 at VBDRTC. The general objective of the workshop was to assess the competency of microscopists on malaria parasite detection, identification and counting with the quality standards set by WHO.

There were a total 12 participants in the assessment where participation were each lab personnel from NPHL-Kathmandu, Ramechhap, Makwanpur, Parsa, Nawalparasi, Baitadi, Surkhet, Bajura, and Kanchanpur districts and 3 from Kailali district while the facilitator for the event was an expert trainer from WHO. In the workshop, all the participants demonstrated significant improvements in their abilities to identify malaria species accurately. Through these workshops in the future, it is expected to produce skilled laboratory personnel to ultimately help provide quality malaria microscopy services including QA/QC in regions.

Review Meeting for Lab to Strengthen

The review meeting was organized with an aim to develop and strengthen QA/QC system for malaria microscopy in Nepal. The participants were lab personnel from all program districts, regions & VBDRTC. There were 33 participants in the program.

The objective of the program was to familiarize the participants on the modality of QA/QC and operationalize the existing non-functional QA/QC system. It also aimed to familiarize the participants with the various forms and formats, the channelized recording reporting and feedback system, and the strategically develop designated microscopy centers and reference Center which in the future would be acting as the Quality control and Cross-checking sites for malaria microscopy.

The workshop was successful to update the participants on existing policy and strategy for malaria elimination, the requirements for malaria elimination as suggested by the Mid Term Program Review of malaria done in 2016, structure and function of national quality assurance system for malaria microscopy. The event helped clarify the roles and responsibilities of quality assurance mechanism at different levels (central level, province level and peripheral/local level) and made clear the guidelines in place for carrying out the QA/QC activity.

Leadership and Management Training

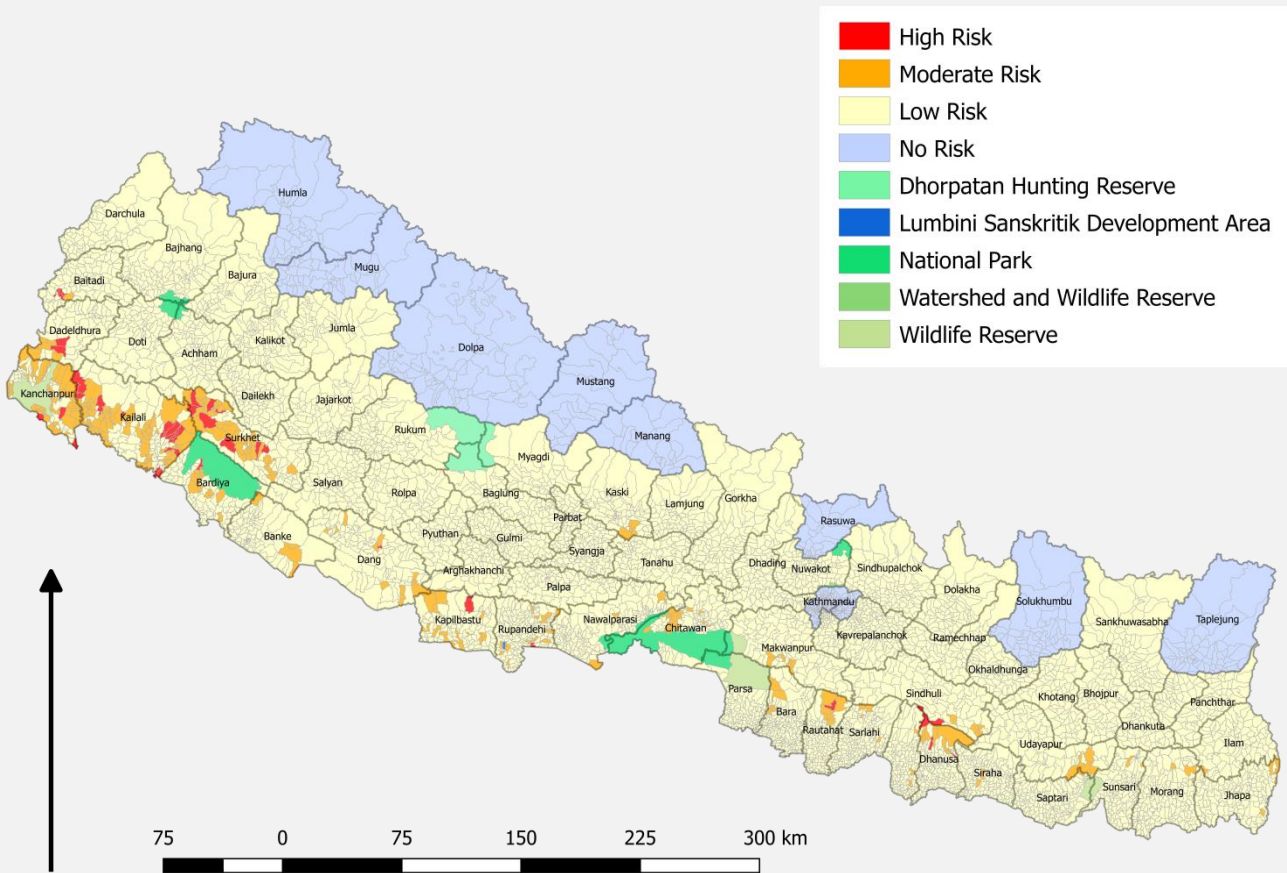
A 3 days training for DPHO/DHO staffs on leadership and management was conducted from 29th Dec, 2017 at The Global Hotel, Chitwan. The overall objective of the training was to improve the capacity of DPHO staff on leadership and management issues. The program aimed at enabling the district team to improve their personal as well as decision making capacity thereby improving the overall management of programs conducted by the district team under the leadership of the DPHO.

The training used various methods such as lectures, demonstration, brainstorming, small group assignments, workshops, small group presentations, energizers etc. It was based on the results-oriented leadership development model developed and promoted by USAID/MSH globally. There were altogether 20 participants from the DPHO Chitwan office who worked together to improve their skills. At the end of the session, participants were able to identify the improvement areas in their workplace and developed a work plan to mitigate the existing challenges. Participants were requested to implement the action plan prepared, before the next follow-up training that would take place after 3 months.



Group photo of the participants with trainers.

Map of Malaria Risk Area



(Source: Malaria micro-stratification Report- 2016)

Glimpse of Program Activities



Discussion on Road Map for Malaria Elimination workshop.



Orientaion to Social Mobilizers on LLIN distribution.



Bi-monthly meeting of program management unit (PMU) team.



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