



Ministry of Health

NEWS RELEASE

2010 MALARIA INDICATOR SURVEY

The Ministry of Health through the National Malaria Control Centre (NMCC) and partners has been implementing malaria control interventions which have led to remarkable progress in reducing in-patient child illness and deaths due to malaria reduced by 66% between 2000 and 2008. The malaria incidence also reduced by about 30% between 2006 and 2008.

The national Malaria Indicator Survey (MIS) is a tool used to track progress by the malaria control programme. The Malaria Indicator Survey is an important national exercise which provides an opportunity to assess coverage and measure the impact of malaria control and prevention interventions.

Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary Dr. Peter Mwaba said the exercise is a very useful undertaking in assisting the Ministry of Health adjust its malaria control programme priorities.

“The information collected will assist the Ministry and partners to provide better malaria control services and guide policy decisions,” Dr. Mwaba added.

The MIS fieldwork and data collection which commenced in April has been completed making Zambia the first country to have conducted three surveys. The 2010 MIS is the third undertaking, the first and second having been conducted in 2006 and 2008 respectively.

Ministry of Health through the National Malaria Control Centre in collaboration with many RBM partners recently trained and sent 15 field teams to 66 districts. The data collection exercise was carried out during the month of April and May. The teams recorded household information using handheld computers called Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs). During the exercise, household owners were requested to provide information on the different interventions being implemented by the Ministry. Malaria testing was also carried out using Rapid Diagnostic Test Kits (RDTs).

More than 150 Enumerators/Research Assistants were trained and during the data collection exercise, the teams reached a representative sample of 4,500 households in

the 66 districts. The fieldwork was concluded during the last week of May. Data cleaning and analysis has commenced and will include the examination of 8,000 blood slides.

The results will be ready by end of September and subsequently disseminated at a date and venue to be communicated once the report is ready.

The Ministry of Health would like to thank communities and health workers who participated in this important national exercise.

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