

Reducing Disease Burden Among Children Under Five Through Person-Centered Approaches: A Case Study from Moyo District, Uganda



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Objectives

Uganda aims to improve community health with community participation. The 2022 Uganda Demographic Health Survey (UDHS) reported a child mortality rate of 52 deaths per 1000 live births. The PMI Uganda Malaria Reduction Activity (PMI MRA) aligns with the National community health strategy, emphasizing accessible health services and person-centered approaches to strengthen primary healthcare systems and build resilient community health structures.

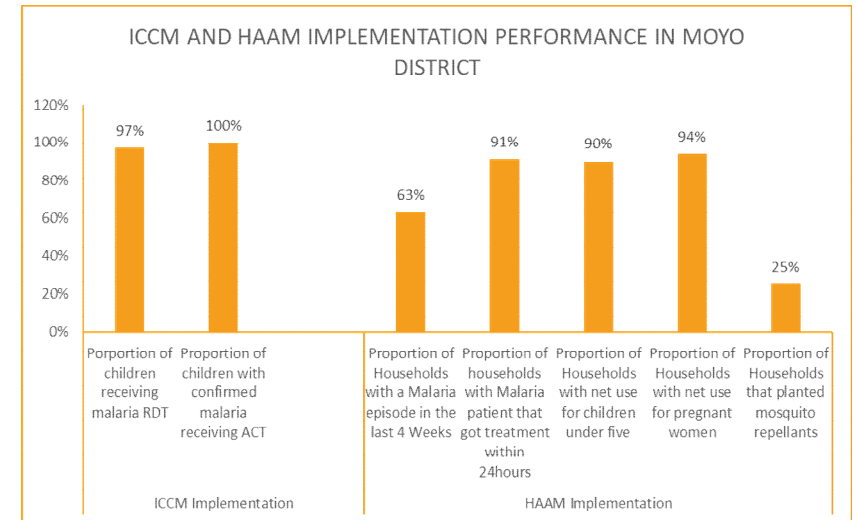
Methods

PMI MRA trained Village Health Teams (VHTs) to implement case management and malaria prevention actions at the community level. The aim was to create a blend of strengthening prevention actions against malaria at the household level, while at the same time conducting malaria case management for children under 5 years of age. This VHTs were trained on Integrated Community Case Management (iCCM) to manage malaria, diarrhea, and pneumonia cases. Additionally, VHTs and Local Council (LC) leaders were oriented on social and behavior change approaches to malaria prevention actions for households to implement to end malaria.

Results

In Moyo district, 466 VHTs were trained in iCCM and household malaria prevention actions.. As a result:

- Children attended by VHTs increased from 1,998 to 5,273.
- Malaria Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) usage increased from 97% to 99%.
- 100% of confirmed cases received Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy (ACT).
- 30 LC1s reached 2,961 households.
- 91% of households with a malaria episode received treatment within 24 hours.
- 90% of children and 94% of pregnant women used mosquito nets.
- 25% of households planted mosquito repellents



Conclusion

Person-centered approaches, including empowering community structures like VHTs, can significantly reduce morbidity and mortality among children under five. This approach enhances community ownership and sustainability in primary health care, contributing to improved health outcomes.



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