

## **Draft Concept Paper For Discussion**

### **A joint consultation on malaria control and community systems strengthening**

23-25 March 2009, Geneva

#### **Background**

Community systems strengthening (CSS), as a component of health systems strengthening (HSS), is central to the current drive to scale-up health service delivery to vulnerable, hard to reach and under-served communities. In the case of malaria control, strong community systems are vital to efforts to achieve universal LLIN coverage and universal access to malaria diagnosis and treatment. As interest in, and funding for, CSS grows, so does the need better to define the aims, objectives, strategies, outputs, indicators and stakeholders of community systems and of CSS.

World Vision (WV), The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and Roll Back Malaria (RBM) have a joint interest and commitment to strengthen community systems and to improve community-level malaria prevention and treatment efforts. Consequently, they propose to hold this consultation to increase awareness about CSS as an effective approach to malaria control and elimination.

#### **Consultation topics<sup>1</sup>**

- What do community members need for improved malaria control? What are the gaps? What are the challenges?
- What malaria control strategies can be implemented by community stakeholders, according to the existing evidence base? What are the gaps in that evidence base?
- How does the concept of malaria community competence strengthen malaria control efforts? Can we define malaria community competences?
- How can community health systems and stakeholders be strengthened in order to implement priority malaria control strategies at scale?
- How can we communicate community systems strengthening strategies effectively to practitioners, policy makers and donors to ensure uptake and funding?

#### **Objectives and deliverables of the joint consultation**

- Higher understanding of what is meant by community systems and CSS
- Draft guidelines on malaria control and CSS for GFATM grant applications
- Elaboration of malaria community competences
- Formation of malaria control/CSS advocacy platform at global, regional and national levels
- Review of the CSS evidence base and identification of evidence gaps.

#### **Consultation outline**

- A 2.5-day consultation with key stakeholders co-hosted by RBM, WV and IFRC
- 23-25 March 2009
- At the IFRC in Geneva
- Maximum of 45 participants with active interest in malaria control and CSS (representing practitioners, policy makers and donors).
- Working language English

#### **Facilitators**

- Ian Campbell (AFFIRM facilitators)
- Graham Betts-Symonds (consultant)

#### **Hosting**

- The consultation will be co-hosted by RBM, WVI and IFRC.

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<sup>1</sup> A list of resources that will form the basis of discussions will be provided ahead of the consultation.