

Lessons from TRP feedback- Malaria

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## Introduction

TRP feedback for R9 analyzed and presented under 8 topic areas, in each topic area the Strengths, Major weaknesses, Minor weaknesses TRP and recommendations are highlighted.

This presentation highlights a few of the issues under each of the 8 topic area.

1. Presentation and quality of proposal
2. Case Management
- 3: Budgeting and Finance
4. Prevention- IRS and LLINs (Vector Control)
- 5: BCC- IEC
- 6: National Strategic alignment, M&E, indicators and systems development
- 7: Procurement
- 8: Implementation and Management arrangements

## Presentation and overall quality of proposals

- The review of TRP feedback to countries has revealed a good understanding of the key issues that the group of technical panelists base their proposals rating decisions on.
- Good proposals provide a good description of the process through which the proposal was developed, the TRP values consultative proposal development processes that includes key stakeholders from all sectors, public, private and civil society.
- Coherent, clear Logic, sound analysis, well articulated goals specific objectives and a good description of the interventions; beneficiaries and the sustainability are key assets to the overall likability of the process.
- Value is placed on showing clear linkages with existing GF grants, providing sound and feasible technical interventions which are consistent with the national strategic plan and in line with regional and global disease control targets and best practices.
- A good epidemiological description, supported by a well-documented program analysis is needed.

## Case Management

- On disease control, a good feedback is given to innovative approaches, provision of linkages to other grants,
- In cases where an intervention is being introduced for a first time, piloting and making clear that lessons will be learnt in a phased implementation approach are all good score points.
- Concerns include poor quantification, (over or under) of ACTs and RDTs, as related to observed changes in epidemiology or disease burden.
- For example, the quantification of drug procurement based solely on estimates of incidence without consideration of systems and capacities is seen as inappropriate.
- Also estimates for commodities must take into consideration the expected drop in malaria incidence following preventive interventions.

## Budgeting and Finance

- An important part of the proposal is the section on budgets.
- In the worst rated proposals, the TRP usually states that, there are discrepancies in the budget, financial gap analysis are poorly done, there are a lack of details, and in some cases unit costs are over and above standard known costs.
- Inconsistency in calculations, inflated costs, lump sum figures not well explained and poor budgeting do not also receive good reviews.
- The above are all issues that go to question the credibility of the proposal.
- Clarity, good budget notes, good estimates, detailed break down of costs and assumptions and sound believable justifications of course earns more positive assessments.

## Prevention- IRS and LLINs (Vector Control)

- On vector control, a good start is to have a good malaria epidemiological stratification of the country or region, with clear demarcation of where the different vectors control strategies would be deployed, in situations where this is the case.
- It helps to have in place initiatives to evaluate the potential impact of insecticide(s) on the environment and to monitor the dynamic of insecticide resistance.
- In cases where IRS and LLINs are proposed as joint and or concurrent interventions, clarity is needed to explain the added advantage of one and then the other, if applied in same locations.
- Positive remarks are made in cases where such dual interventions follow WHO guidance.
- On LLINs, quantification, good definition of target population, and distribution methodology are all issues that when not well articulated tend to contribute to poor proposal ratings.

## BCC- IEC

- With regards to BCC/IEC, the perennial issue relates to the provision of evidence of the effectiveness of the intervention.
- Over and above this, positives reviews include sound and evidence based activities, integrated strategies, which demonstrate the intended impact on the population, with strong qualitative and quantitative evidence of impact.
- It does help to show the involvement of and ownership of communities, civil society organizations and linkages with previous BCC/IEC activities in previous grants.

## National Strategy alignment, M&E, and Systems Development

- Good proposals need to have well articulated activities, sound measurable indicators, a clear implementation strategy linked to well-developed National M&E plan.
- While the objectives, service delivery areas and indicators should be aligned to the broad national strategy, it should also respond to the specific needs of the proposal.
- A good understanding of the different levels of indicator formulation and measurement (input, process, output and impact) are an asset.
- The establishment of baselines and how indicators will be tracked and measured are necessary. Care must be taken to streamline and coordinate these to benefit from planned surveys and studies.
- It helps to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the national system and devise ways to strengthen the M&E system to benefit the data quality and timeliness of reports.

## Procurement

- The proper quantification of needs with realistic values is important.
- Clarify the procurement system in place, provide a good description of the National or PR specific procurement arrangements, its strengths and weaknesses.
- In cases where inherent and persistent PSM weaknesses exist, the TRP sees value in opting for the GF's Voluntary pooled procurement system, while efforts are made to strengthen the PRs systems.

## Implementation and Management

- A good description of the implementation arrangements, the coordination mechanism, and the overall impact or effect of the existing health systems is necessary.
- In cases where previous grants have been awarded, a history of the implementation arrangements, performance, lessons learned and any modifications made or intended to improve the new grant are important to mention.
- Where it is envisaged that the current proposal may be merged with existing grants, this must be highlighted.
- The selection of principal and sub-recipients must show transparency and cross sectional representation, from Government, faith-based, civil society and the private sector where applicable. Clarify the responsibilities and activities of the key implementers, and their capacity to deliver.
- The national architecture and platform for programme implementation, such as SWAPs must be highlighted, especially where that implementation arrangement will affect the proposal.

## Conclusion

- In Short- Good Luck!