Integrating NTD drug packages into a Child Nutrition Campaign

Achille Kabore, MD MPH
Senior Technical Advisor
NTD Control Program
RTI International
Washington, DC May 4th 2011
Overview of the Neglected Tropical Disease Control Program (NTDCP)

• USAID’s NTD program began in 2006 in 5 countries—Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Niger, and Uganda—and rapidly expanded to 9 additional countries—Cameroun, Haiti, Sierra Leone, Togo, Tanzania, Southern Sudan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Indonesia—by the end of 2010.

• Focus on preventive chemotherapy for 5 NTDs that can be targeted through mass drug administration (MDA).

• Promote integrated delivery of mass treatment as opposed to separate support for vertical disease control programs.

• Program has supported the distribution of more than 385 million drug treatments to 69 million individuals in 10 countries.
NTDs Targeted by USAID

Onchocerciasis (River Blindness)

Lymphatic Filariasis (Elephantiasis)

Intestinal Helminths (Worms)

Blinding Trachoma

Schistosomiasis (Snail Fever)

Hookworms, Trichiuris, Whipworms and Schistosomiasis → anemia
Integration of NTD control into *Semaine d’Intensification des Activités de Nutrition (SIAN)*, a national nutrition campaign in Mali, in 2 districts - Kolokani and Banamba
National week for the intensification of child nutrition activities (SIAN)

• Nationwide program
• Takes place twice a year
• Supported by MoH/Mali, UNICEF and Helen Keller International
• Promotion of Breastfeeding
• Vitamin A supplementation
• Bed-nets distribution
Objective

- Assess the effectiveness of the co-administration of NTD drug packages (ALB, IVM, ZTH & PZQ) with vitamin A supplementation and breastfeeding promotion
Why integrate?

- Common aspects:
  - Almost the same community volunteers and the same supervisors for both programs
  - Overlapping districts and geographical areas
  - Same partners/donors
  - Need to coordinate campaigns and schedules
  - Need to decrease burden on peripheral health units and communities (multiples campaigns, overwhelmed staff)
  - Expecting enhanced coverage and cost-effectiveness for both programs
  - Directorate of national health services
SIAN / NTDCP Integration

- Facilitating Factors:
  - Existing national policy (PRODESS), frameworks, WHO master-plans and NTD protocols
  - Nutrition and Health Programs are under the same directorate

- Processes:
  - Integrating planning and budgeting,
  - Designing integrated tools: registers, training manuals, guidelines etc…
  - Integrating training, social mobilization, logistics, supervision and monitoring
Rolling NTDCP/SIAN Integrated Packages

- NTD Maps and Distribution plans
- SIAN timetable and schedules
- IEC/Community mobilization
- Trainings
- Delivery to distribution posts
- Monitoring tools
Pre- & Post- Campaigns Measurements

Heights/weights

Questionnaires
Some Challenges Along the Way

- Challenging field operations: targets, distribution mechanisms, availability of drugs/commodities
- Complex trainings with potential for confusion
- Some IEC materials may yield mixed/confused messages (should always be pre-tested)
- Fear of losing some privileges/advantages (harmonizing incentives for volunteers for all programs)
- Diluting individual programs specific interventions (losing momentum of diseases targeted for elimination)
General Reflections on Integration

- *Integration is an attitude*, not a recipe
- Efficient and appealing approach with the potential to minimize field work and costs
- Balanced and pragmatic approach to treat or prevent diseases for groups of people and individuals
- Illustrates importance of investing in teamwork to minimize overall program costs by being able to target intervention
Integration Trade-offs

• Need to reach consensus on the essential elements of each individual program
• Inherent differences in the approaches for each program need to be carefully considered and reconciled
Clear and simple messages!!

Fri big fut en worrum meresin

Dis fri welbodi biznes, na fo hol am wit two an O!
Is integration successful?
Reduction in anemia in Burkina Faso

Integration of SCH/STH into school health campaigns:
dramatic decrease of anemia prevalence at follow-up year 3
THANK YOU

- Mali National Control Program staff
- Sierra Leone NTD/Oncho Control Program
- USAID NTD Control Program
- Helen Keller International
- Schistosomiasis Control Initiative, Imperial College, London (SCI)
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation