

Using an automated digital visualisation software Tableau as a monitoring and advocacy tool to restore CHW activity in Luapula, Muchinga and Northern Provinces from 2019 to 2022.

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Introduction

The Zambia National Malaria Elimination Strategic Plan (NMESP) 2022–26 targets to lower the malaria burden in high transmission areas, eliminate malaria in low transmission areas and prevent the reintroduction of malaria transmission. PATH supports health facility and community malaria programs including training, deployment, and supervision of community health workers (CHWs) in Eastern, Luapula, Muchinga, Northern, Southern and Western provinces. CHWs provide families with quicker access to malaria testing and treatment, reducing the risk of complications and mortality from malaria. However, the lack of automated dashboards previously presented a challenge for routine monitoring. Malaria data from the services provided by CHWs is currently displayed on Tableau, an automated visualisation software, presenting data from Zambian Health Management Information System (HMIS) and Malaria Rapid Reporting (MRR) as informative graphics.

Methodology

Data in Tableau from Luapula, Northern and Muchinga were analysed to review trends in passive malaria cases identified by CHWs in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022. Program reports were also analysed focusing on activities that used Tableau in advocacy such as monitoring, mentorship and motivation, data review meetings, provincial and district integrated meetings, and outreach training and supportive supervision (OTSS).

Results

From 2019 to 2022, 2,179,194 passive malaria cases were identified in districts implementing community case management with 706,320 (32%) identified by CHWs. Four distinct phases are evident on Tableau: A phase of initial high activity of CHWs in 2019 (44%) was followed by a significant decline and drop in 2020 (13%) which coincided with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in Zambia. In 2021, Tableau was used in various platforms to advocate for the supply of commodities to CHWs, contributing to a phase of recovery in 2021 (16%), and a restoration of CHW activity in 2022 (41%).

Conclusion

Visual outputs from Tableau on CHW activity helped in monitoring and advocacy leading to the recovery of CHW activity in 2022. The orientation of healthcare workers and institutionalisation of Tableau provides an opportunity for policymakers and implementers to contribute to the Malaria Strategy target of reducing incidence and mortality.

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