

Setting a Nigeria National Malaria Operational Research Agenda: The Process

Ajumobi et al. (2018)

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For which topic were research priorities identified?

Malaria

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

Africa - Nigeria

Why was it conducted at all?

Globally, millions of deaths attributable to malaria are still being recorded. The disease constitutes a huge epidemiologic burden in Africa and continues to cripple the economic development in the region evidenced by most deaths compared to other regions of the world. There is therefore a need to revise the list of prioritised OR questions in the light of current realities, research questions emanating from the recent Nigeria Malaria Indicator Survey (NMIS, 2015) and reflect new and emerging questions.

What was the objective?

to identify key Malaria research gaps and needs, and provide data to inform setting a robust national Malaria operational research agenda

What was the outcome?

a list of research topics

How long did the research prioritization take?

Survey and interviews: October 2016 - December 2016. Workshop: February 2017

Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

interview; survey; workshop

How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: literature review: scoping review of literature and documents on malaria research in and outside Nigeria. Step 2: online and paper-based survey and key informant interviews: list of topics provided, participants were asked to rank topics. Step 3: 2-day desk review/situational analysis workshop: to identify what has been achieved regarding MOR and the emerging OR issues in malaria control/elimination, to determine the current NMEP OR gaps and needs and to develop a plan to indicate milestone and key indicators of MOR. Step 4: data processing: data analysis of existing data so far and writing first results. Step 5: Delphi interviews: to further explore issues identified from survey and KII interviews requiring further clarification and supporting/in-depth information. Step 6: data processing: gaps in malaria research refined based on Delphi interviews. Step 7: national stakeholder workshop: to develop malaria operation research agenda, final discussion of research priorities

Which stakeholders took part?

Survey: 185 participants, key informant interviews: 40 participants, desk review workshop: 22 participants, Delphi interviews: 8 participants, stakeholder workshop: 54 participants

How were stakeholders recruited?

Participants were recruited using snow-ball sampling. All the relevant stakeholders that could be identified across six geopolitical zones of Nigeria and globally were surveyed. Participants were included purposively based on their malaria research focus and involvement in malaria program activities in Nigeria.

Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.