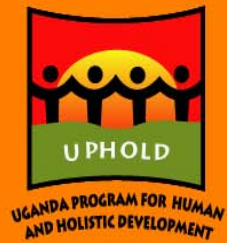


Intermittent Preventive Treatment of Malaria in Pregnancy: Implementation Challenges

**East African Community
1st Health and Scientific Conference
28-30 March 2007**

*Dr. Betty Mpeka, Communicable Disease Specialist, Uganda
Program for Human and Holistic Development, UPHOLD*

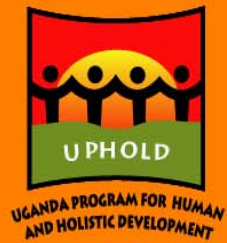




Outline

- Background
- About UPHOLD
- Objectives
- Methods
- Findings (challenges)
- Conclusions
- Way Forward

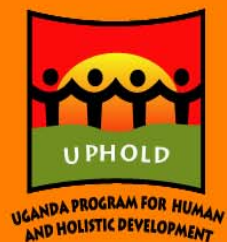




Background

- Pregnancy makes women more vulnerable to malaria (high morbidity & mortality)
- Malaria infection → acute disease and anaemia
- Malaria parasites sequester in placenta
- Anaemia and placental malaria → low birth weight (LBW) babies
- LBW great risk for neonatal death





Rationale for Intermittent Preventive Treatment of Malaria in Pregnancy (IPTp)

- Pregnant women have higher densities and prevalence of parasitaemia
- Parasitaemia highest between 20 -36 weeks of pregnancy
- Preventive treatment aims to eliminate parasitaemia
- 2 doses of Sulfadoxine-pyrimithamine (SP) reduce parasitaemia s severe anaemia and LBW babies
- Simple and cost effective



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Ministry of Health Policy

- 2 Sulfadoxine Pyrimethamine (Fansidar[®]) doses (given during 2nd and 3rd trimesters)
- 3 doses Fansidar for HIV+ mothers
- Directly Observed Treatment (DOT) for the doses



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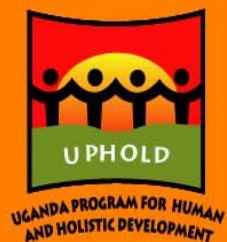




About UPHOLD

- Five-year integrated social services program designed by the Government of Uganda and USAID
- Currently operates in 34 districts covering 42% Uganda's population (~ 11.8m people)
- Overall project aim is to increase access and utilization of sustainable and quality social services in **Education**, **Health** and **HIV/AIDS** in support of USAID's Strategic Objective 8 (SO8) which aims to improve human capacity



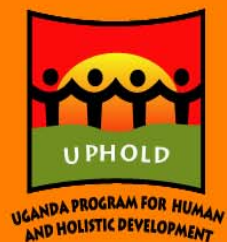


About UPHOLD

UPHOLD's core technical areas of implementation include:

- HIV/AIDS
- Primary School Education
- Communicable Disease Control (Malaria and Tuberculosis)
- Child Health
- Integrated Reproductive Health
- Adolescent Health

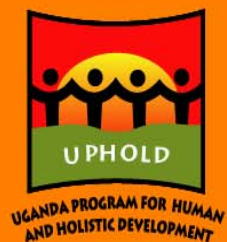




UPHOLD's Malaria Interventions

- Home-based management of fever
- Insecticide Treated Nets (distribution and re-treatment)
- Case management of malaria using Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy (facility level)
- **Intermittent Preventive Treatment of malaria in pregnancy**





Objectives

- To reduce prevalence of severe anaemia in the mother and prevalence of low birth weight babies
- Ministry of Health target: Increase IPTp2 uptake to 80% by 2010 (Health Sector Strategic Plan II)

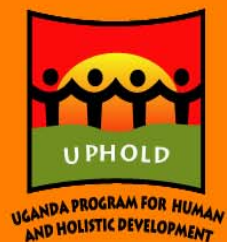




Methods(1)

- Team of supervisors constituted (MoH, UPHOLD)
 - Re-oriented on IPTp and developed supervision tools
 - Rapid assessment of IPTp in two districts to pre-test tools and identify key issues related to IPTp implementation (ANC attendance high but IPTp2 low)
- On-job support supervision carried out in 17 districts, 72 health facilities, 219 health workers
 - On-job training and mentoring to support Health Workers
 - Reviewing antenatal care records to extract IPTp data
 - Observing the activities at antenatal care clinics
 - Community dialogue to understand their perceptions on IPTp and get their input





Methods (2)

- Feed back at facility and district level
 - Make action plans to address the identified problems
 - Share challenges identified and formulate solutions



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Findings



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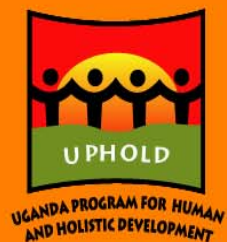
IPT Coverage

District	IPT 2 Coverage % - Supervision reports	IPT Coverage % MoH 05/06
Kamuli District	34.4	36
Kaliro	45.1	40
Luwero District	37.9	48
Bugiri District	45.3	50
Rakai/Lyantonde	30.2	26
Wakiso	41.0	41
Nakaseke District	32.0	36
Bundibugyo District	43.0	58
Kyenjojo	40.8	31
Isingiro	31.5	21
Mbarara	31.6	20
Gulu/Amuru	52.9	46
Kitgum	58.6	26
Nakapiripirit	43.9	54
Mayuge	32.4	35
Average	40.0	37.9



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Gaps (1)

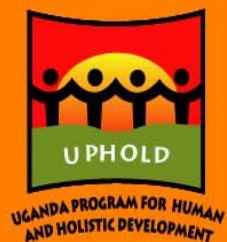
Antenatal Care Service Delivery

- Some health units have antenatal care (ANC) on specific days
- Many staff not oriented on Goal-oriented ANC
 - Ask mothers to come many times
 - Have difficulty scheduling next visits
 - Health workers have difficulty computing gestational age and trimester



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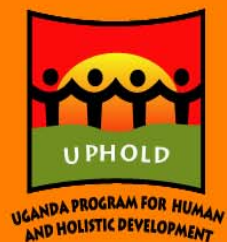


Gaps(2)

Availability of Policy Guidelines

- Lack or insufficient job aides and protocols to assist health workers in;
 - Problem identification
 - Providing correct information to clients
 - Health promotion
 - Prescribing correct treatment
- Poor record keeping





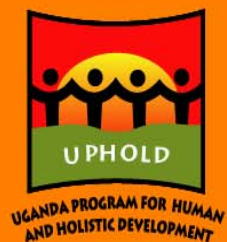
Gaps(3) IPTp Delivery

- Organisation of the Antenatal care clinic
 - Limited privacy
 - Late opening
 - Long waiting times
 - Multiple points for services (register, weigh, medicines)
- Some staff not sure of IPTp
 - Benefits
 - Dosage timing
 - frequency



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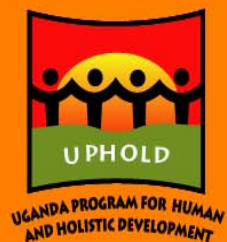


Gaps (4)

IPTp Delivery

- Attitude of staff
 - Impolite Health Workers
 - Minimal and sometimes inappropriate communication (vital information on silent malaria)
 - *“Even me when I take Fansidar on an empty stomach get stomach upset, so I advise them to take it home”-Midwife, Mayuge District*
- Health units lack clean cups and containers for clean drinking water



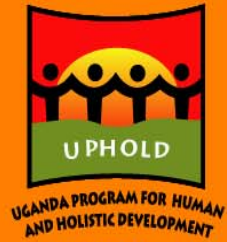


Gaps(5)

Inadequate Health System Support

- Supervision
- Continuing Medical Education
- Guidelines
- Induction of staff
- Staff meetings



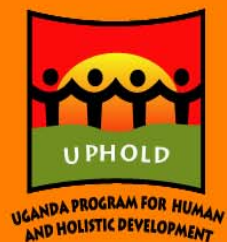


Gap(6)

Community Involvement

- Limited awareness of the silent malaria, by mothers and their partners
- Little motivation for taking medicine when not sick





Challenges

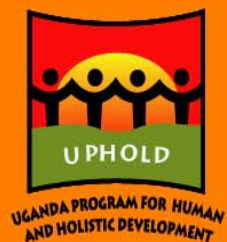
Facility Administration

- Work flow and work load (few skilled staff)
- Insufficient stocks of SP (stock cards poorly kept)
- Procurement bottlenecks
- Water shortages in some remote places
- Poor record keeping
 - Short supply of registers
 - Health workers laxity
 - Health workers limited understanding



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Conclusions

- The target for IPTp remains largely unachieved.
- Most of the challenges are health system issues, to be addressed through health systems strengthening as a joint effort between MOH and partners.
- Most of the gaps can be filled through intensifying on job support and supervision





Way Forward

- Developed a Malaria in Pregnancy package to address the identified gaps
 - Training
 - Supervision/mentoring
 - BCC packages (radio spots, drama, radio talk shows)
 - Advocacy at different levels for increased contribution from stakeholders
 - Job aides (gestational wheel, instructional charts)
 - District capacity building for mentoring

