MERG Achievements
including:
Malaria Indicator Surveys

A brief overview
A brief history of the MERG

- Roll Back Malaria 5-year Evaluation
  - Included evaluation of M&E component of RBM
  - Recommended establishment of M&E advisory body
- Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group (MERG) established as Working Group for RBM
- Membership: UNICEF, WHO, Global Fund, World Bank, USAID, CDC, MACEPA, Malaria Consortium, Measure Evaluation, Measure DHS, technical experts, representatives of national Malaria Control Programs
- Meet 2x year with separate task force meetings on special topics as necessary
Initial Priorities of MERG

- Standardization of national coverage indicators
- Development of ‘modules’ for data collection in existing survey efforts (DHS, MICS)
- Development of ‘stand-alone’ survey (later known as the Malaria Indicator Survey (MIS))
  - intervals between large national surveys
  - timely, comparable malaria information
- Package of implementation materials developed: sampling guide, interviewer guide supervision guide, etc.
Survey tool components

- Two types of questionnaires
  - Household Questionnaire
  - Woman’s Questionnaire
- Purpose
  - To provide *reliable* information on malaria interventions at the national level and for population subgroups
  - To allow calculation of standard Roll Back Malaria indicators
  - To meet country-specific needs for monitoring and evaluation of malaria programs
  - NOT intended to replace routine monitoring and surveillance
Household Questionnaire

- Household listing
- Information needed to calculate a household wealth index
- Questions on indoor residual spraying (IRS)
- Questions on ownership and use of mosquito nets
- Anemia and malaria prevalence
Women’s Questionnaire

- Questions on treatment of fever in young children (under five years of age)
- Questions on Intermittent Preventive Treatment (IPT) during most recent pregnancy
- Partial birth history
Biomarkers

- Anemia –
  - Anemia testing done on all children under 5
  - Standard in DHS, MIS

- Parasitemia
  - Parasitemia testing done on all children under 5
  - Microscopy for survey purposes, RDTs for field treatment
  - Standard in MIS
Cross-national comparisons

RBM target 2010 (80% coverage)

RBM (Abuja) target 2005 (60% coverage)
Publications of survey data

Data from the new standardized surveys have been used in the following reports:

- World Malaria Report (2005)
- Malaria in Children Report (2007)
- World Malaria Report (2008)

Numerous journal articles and other publications
Workshops on MIS implementation

- Zambia (Anglophone Africa) – Sept. 2008
- Senegal (Francophone Africa) – Oct. 2008
- Participants: NMCP staff, representatives of donor community, other technical experts
- Content: Workshops aimed to familiarize NMCP staff with the structure and implementation of MIS. Topics included: Survey tools, sampling, use of PDAs, biomarker collection, analysis, etc.
Other MERG activities

- Guidance on mortality estimation for impact monitoring
- M&E support to Global Malaria Action Plan, AMfM workplan, etc.
- M&E Capacity building through assessments, trainings, workshops
THANK YOU!
MEASURE Evaluation is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) through Cooperative Agreement GPO-A-00-03-00003-00 and is implemented by the Carolina Population Center at the University of North Carolina in partnership with Futures Group, John Snow, Inc., ORC Macro International, and Tulane University.

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