

Action Points to Include in Country Plan

What are our most critical priorities across thematic areas? How do they link to existing plans?

- Need for local evidence for increased advocacy
- Work through national mechanisms to incorporate private sector
- Create a mechanism for sharing information on innovative projects
- Gather, reconcile and disseminate costing data
- Identify and implement community engagement strategies to increase uptake and demand
- Facilitate the process of ICCM commodity inclusion into the national system
- Strengthen the links with Ministry of Finance and Planning as well as senior management of MoH

What is achievable in the next 6 months?

- Bring broader partners working with VHTs (not just ICCM) together to discuss motivation and retention of VHTs
- Clearly define type of supervision needed, expected outcomes, frequency, at which levels and how to measure outcomes
- Bring together communications/social mobilisation working groups for all three separate disease areas (none for ICCM as a whole)
- Development of pre-packaged kits for VHTs by NMS
- Package ICCM in a way to present to senior management of MoH , Ministry of Finance and National Drug Authority
- Under the child health department, identify and address TA needs relating to ICCM
- Reconcile costing tools, cost the current ICCM pilot (ongoing in three districts), collect data and disseminate costs
- Develop a plan for implementing priority actions

In the next year?

- Develop plan for integrating supervision of VHTs into MoH budgets
- Use data to see whether current geographical dispersment of VHTs is most relevant
- Strengthen quality of care assessments (develop guidelines)
- Prioritise participatory methods as part of continued community engagement strategies
- Further engage district leadership on the most recent VHT guidelines and iCCM involvement
- Develop system (potential to use c-stock) for tracking stock information flow
- Develop VHT value for money (such as envelopes) pre-packaging tools of colour coded medicines
- Explore, through the TWG, how to sustainably and meaningfully work with the private sector

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What additional resources will we need for each priority area?

- TA for integration of ICCM into GF concept note
- Partner support for some of the research relating to costs/quality of care/ dispersement
- Government funding for integration of supervision into budgets and commodities into NMS supply system
- Partner support in the reproduction of VHT user friendly prepackaging tools
- Partner support in the development of the quality of care assessment guidelines

What are our next steps as a country to implement these next steps?

- De-brief with child health department in order to agree on priorities and next steps in order to:
 - Convene ICCM stakeholders group for discussion and onward submission to relevant TWG
 - Engage other relevant MoH departments (medicines, NMCP)
 - Report back to senior management of MoH
 - Engage Ministry of Finance
 - Identify individual or organisation who can move these action points forward
 - Strongly advocate to GF for the inclusion of all ICCM commodities
- Develop an implementation plan
- Strengthen advocacy around ICCM to relevant stakeholders
 - Identify and engage ICCM champion within MoH

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Summary statement on approach and next steps:

To a large extent, the Uganda country group focused on the high level policy and advocacy efforts needed to support the sustainability of the ICCM programme in the country. The majority of thematic areas were very relevant to Uganda, where ICCM is implemented in a large amount of districts and is seen as a priority child mortality reduction strategy.

Specifically, a large proportion of the next steps which have been identified, are dependent on bringing together key stakeholders and planning as a group. In addition, the ICCM stakeholders' group will require revitalisation in order to achieve the priorities set for the next 6 and 12 months.

Champions within the MoH, MoF, NMS are crucial for ensuring that the goals set, are achieved and this is a key priority for the next few months.

In addition to planning within the MoH and the Government structures, the Uganda country group also intends to focus on establishing best practices around quality of care assessment, VHT deployment, equipping and supervision mechanisms, cost and medicine packaging and tracking. Innovations are seen as learning opportunities, but need to be streamlined, disseminated and their data included in national health information systems.

Finally, it's important to also engage with the district leadership, communities and increase uptake and demand for the VHT services through continued community engagement and involvement.