

USAID GLOBAL HEALTH
SUPPLY CHAIN PROGRAM
Procurement and Supply Management



SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT
DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC:
A LESSON FROM THE MALARIA
PRE-ELIMINATION DISTRICTS IN ZAMBIA

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the supply chain, leading to low availability of malaria supplies and making health facility (HF) data critical to direct stock to the HFs with the greatest need. With support from the U.S. President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI), the USAID Global Health Supply Chain Program-Procurement and Supply Management (GHSC-PSM) project developed strategies to improve stock availability in three pre-elimination districts in Eastern Zambia.

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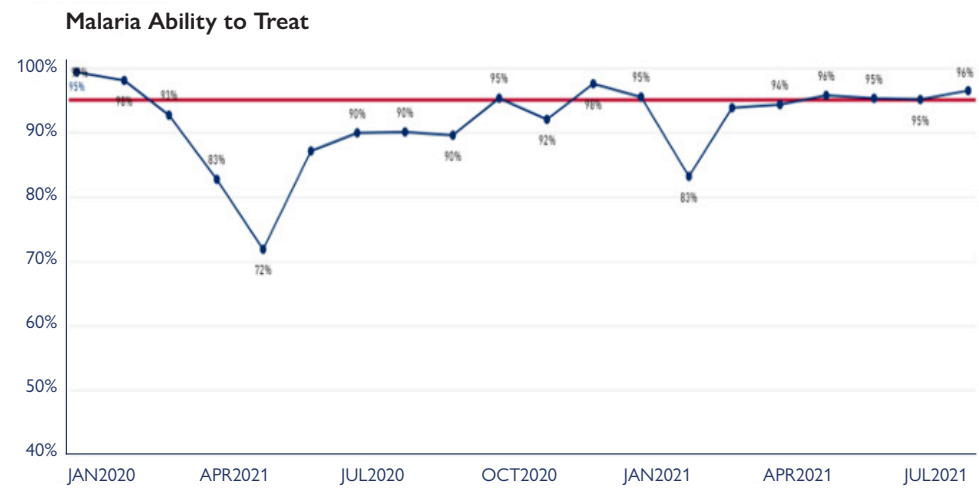


BACKGROUND AND PROBLEM

- Disruptions in supply chain distributions affected the availability of malaria commodities and other essential medical products.
- Shifting attention and human resource to prioritizing COVID-19 related activities.
- Technical assistance in logistics management information systems could not be offered onsite due to travel restrictions.

The ability to treat uncomplicated malaria in the non pre-elimination districts Jan. 2020 to July 2021

Ability to treat trends for Non-pre-elminiation districts



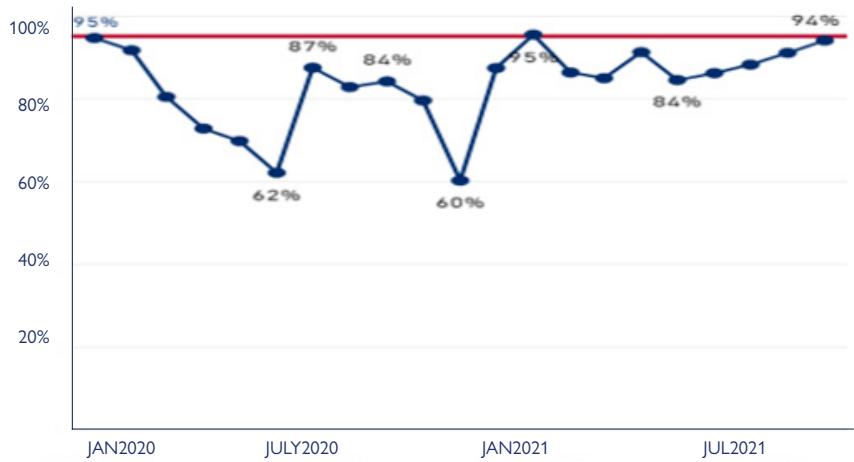
APPROACH

The GHSC-PSM project developed strategies to improve stock availability in eastern Zambia’s three pathfinder malaria pre-elimination districts. It was critical to ensure logistics data was available at the end of every reporting period to inform supply chain decision-making.

The project adopted the following strategies:

- Reviewed HFs’ logistics data quality through electronic logistics management information system to inform technical assistance needs.
- Conducted monthly stock status assessments for the HFs and shared results with district health officers to redistribute supplies or use buffer stock.
- Trained new staff remotely in logistics management to address staffing gaps.
- Enhanced collaboration with implementing partners (IPs) as a primary community-level stock information source.
- Created risk mitigation plans from monthly provincial virtual meetings.
- Coordinated with the Ministry of Health and Churches Health Association of Zambia to ensure timely HF reports and order the right quantities.

mRDTs Stock Availability in Non-Pre-Elimination Districts



Comparison of Stock availability of mRDTs in non pre-elimination vs pre-elimination districts

RESULTS

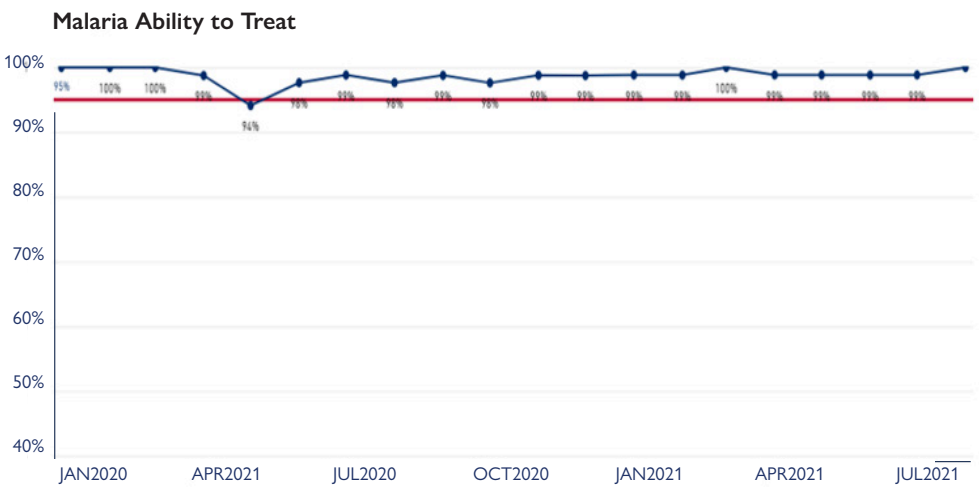
Because of these efforts;

- The ability to treat uncomplicated malaria in pre-elimination districts from January 2020-May 2021 was above the 95% target, compared to a range of 14%-100% in non-pre-elimination districts in May 2021.
- The availability of mRDTs increased from 86% in May 2020 and was sustained above 95% in 2021, compared to a range of 40%-100% in non-pre-elimination districts in the same period.

Additionally, these efforts not only ensured that commodities were available at HFs but also at the community level through the support of community health workers’ integrated community case management activities.

The ability to treat uncomplicated malaria sustained above 95% since August 2020

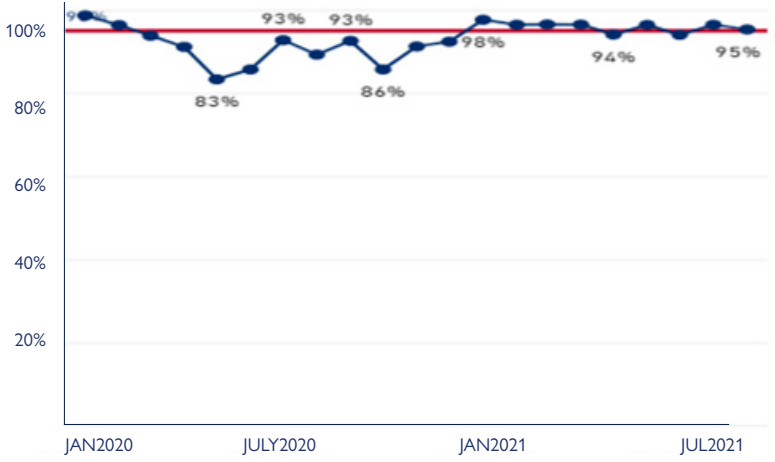
Ability to treat trends for pre-elminiation districts



CONCLUSION

Timely submission of reports and high-quality data avails critical data on which supply decisions are based for redistribution and resupply. Building strong relationships with other IPs is critical because it helps leverage resources. With proper planning, collaborations and virtual technical assistance can ensure continuation of activities. Lastly, having buffer stock of commodities creates flexibility in urgent times to ensure that service provision is not disrupted.

mRDTs Stock Availability in Pre-Elimination Districts



The USAID Global Health Supply Chain Program-Procurement and Supply Management (GHSC-PSM) project is funded under USAID Contract No. AID-OAA-I-15-0004. GHSC-PSM connects technical solutions and proven commercial processes to promote efficient and cost-effective health supply chains worldwide. Our goal is to ensure uninterrupted supplies of health commodities to save lives and create a healthier future for all. The project purchases and delivers health commodities, offers comprehensive technical assistance to strengthen national supply chain systems, and provides global supply chain leadership. For more information, visit ghsupplychain.org. The views expressed in this poster do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the U.S. government.