**Evaluation of the malaria surveillance and data use system in Cameroon**

**ABSTRACT**

**Background:** Cameroon, with 6.7 million cases and 13,839 deaths, faces a considerable burden of malaria. Despite progress, malaria elimination has slowed. Efforts to enhance surveillance and data utilization are underway through collaborations like the President's Malaria Initiative and CHAI partnering with NMCP and BMGF. This qualitative assessment focused on identifying barriers and facilitators to aid informed decision-making in Cameroon's malaria surveillance system.

**Methods:** This study distributed across six regions of Cameroon at community, facility, district, regional and central MOH organizational unit levels respectively sought to address gaps in malaria surveillance and data use. It included literature review, focused group discussions and key informant interviews to further explore barriers and facilitators in malaria surveillance in Cameroon. The goal was to gather insights from stakeholders to improve malaria control. Ethical approval was gotten from the national ethics committee.

**Results:** A total of 69 interviews were conducted including 51 KIIs and 18 FGDs involving 167 participants with a balance of both genders. Barriers included doctors’ reluctance in recording RDT results due to time constraints and paperwork, language limitations hampering communication and diagnosis, COVID-19's impact on community trust, not enough data managers at facilities due to insufficient funds at MOH hindering effective reporting, stockout of malaria commodities due to poor quantification, CHW guidelines gaps which impact case management, and technical glitches with data entry and DHIS2 system. Facilitators included collaborative research to improve RDT usage, accurate documentation, language training and community engagement, CHW pivotal roles necessitates training and logistical support, and enhanced data management practices through regular trainings and mentorships.

**Conclusions:** This study provided us with more insights on the potential gaps in the Cameroon surveillance system that can aid decision-makers to design well-planned interventions to mitigate the gaps in the surveillance as to improve prompt detection, prevention, and control of malaria in Cameroon.

**Keywords:** Evaluation, malaria surveillance, use, Cameroon.