July 2021 Newsletter

The Global Fund Approves $14M Multi-Country Catalytic Funding for the SADC Elimination 8

Leveraging Knowledge Management for Malaria Elimination

SADC Malarai Elimination Eight Initiative: Scorecard 2020

SADC Malarai Elimination Eight Initiative: Annual Report 2020
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In its effort to defeat HIV, TB and Malaria, The Global Fund to fight HIV, TB, and Malaria has once again reaffirmed its commitment to ending malaria in Southern Africa, through the award of a 3 year grant of US$14M for 2021 – 2024, to continue a coordinated multi-country approach to malaria elimination.

This grant, awarded to SADC Elimination 8, will support countries towards achieving zero malaria by 2030.

Catalytic Funding
The goal of this grant is to catalyze regional collaboration and strategic programming to accelerate malaria elimination by 2025 in line with the new E8 Strategic Plan for Malaria Elimination (2021-2025).

The E8 Strategic prioritizes 3 strategic objectives to enable and accelerate zero local transmission in the four frontline countries (Eswatini, Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa) by 2025, and the second line countries (Angola, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) by 2030.

The Global Fund grant prioritizes the following catalytic strategies (graphic 1);

### Domestic Resources Crucial to Achieving Elimination Targets
Adequate, predictable and sustainable financing for the fight against malaria remains a critical priority for E8 countries to achieve and sustain malaria elimination beyond this grant period. All countries across the region face resource gaps in their national malaria strategic plans and many either receive bilateral and multilateral financing for malaria or, anticipate that they are in their final round of funding through the Global Fund mechanism (Table 6 below). Without

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**Vector Control** - To achieve maximum impact through efficiency and effectiveness in IRS implementation in the region, vector control activities are prioritized to support the interruption of transmission in border districts of high burden countries.

**Case Management** - Effective capacity strengthening of key health facility providers and laboratory personnel in provision of quality case management and diagnostic services while establishing sustainable regional expertise will be prioritized.

**Health Product Management System** - To achieve malaria elimination an efficient supply chain management system is essential to enable timely & effective implementation of interventions to maximize impact.

**Health Sector Governance & Planning** - For elimination of malaria to succeed in the E8 southern region, adequate funding is essential. In line with its mandate, the E8 initiative will use support from this grant to advocate for additional sources and to actively promote and support the use of innovative funding mechanisms.

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**Health Management Information Systems & Monitoring & Evaluation** – SADC E8 will focus on improving data quality, its collection and utilization in the E8 region. This will be achieved through the enhancement of regional data sharing in addition to improving the existing web-based reporting platform that enable timely detection of outbreaks.
increased domestic resources, Member States will continue to face significant gaps that will prolong the fight against malaria and delay the timely achievement of malaria elimination targets. The E8 will use catalytic funding such as these to strengthen advocacy and resource mobilization efforts to ensure elimination is achieved and sustained.

Leveraging Knowledge Management for Malaria Elimination

Regional malaria elimination requires concerted efforts that transcend individual country boundaries and requires the involvement of key stakeholders with a variety of knowledge and skills that contribute towards a common goal of eliminating malaria. To achieve this, consolidated efforts and effective tools and approaches coupled with knowledge allows for an understanding on how to innovate through learnings and experience. Knowledge management can be used as a tool to connect stakeholders in the fight towards malaria elimination by providing a central platform by which information is systematically shared to ensure effectiveness and efficiencies in its application (targeted, timely and in the right form) to inform policy decision making to improve work outcomes. It, therefore, provides an opportunity to achieve maximum impact.

The E8 recognises that in order to achieve its strategic objectives, there is need to maximize the benefits that leveraging knowledge management brings in its work towards malaria elimination. Being part of a knowledge-based economy requires that knowledge management forms a strategic and critical part of the journey towards malaria elimination.

Regional Efforts

In an effort to enhance regional knowledge management, the E8 has been working towards motivating innovation, and enhancing learning and sharing of “best practices” in the region by:

- Developing a central location to collate, contribute and share digital learning resources;
- Leveraging resource opportunities from Centres of Excellence (research and academic institutions);
- Connecting the E8 region with information from national, regional & international platforms;
- Leveraging ideas, expertise and innovations from technical working groups and communities of practice.

Potential Benefits

Making the most of knowledge management in malaria elimination could potentially provide the following benefits:

- United stakeholder efforts in addressing malaria elimination challenges;
- Stimulated innovation, generation of new ideas and exploitation of the region’s thinking;
- Enhanced visibility of E8 work as a region;
- Improved efficacy of the region’s decision-making ability on malaria elimination.

Above all, concerted efforts ensure that we “leave no one behind” in malaria elimination. This entails that all stakeholders work towards coordinated approaches, improved capacity and enhanced learning to develop sound policies and programs, effect best practices, and strengthen health system outcomes towards malaria elimination. A regional knowledge management system is key to these efforts.