PIONEERING ELECTRONIC FORMS AND REPORTING IN SEASONAL MALARIA CHEMOPREVENTION IMPLEMENTATION AMID INSECURITY IN ZAMFARA STATE

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Introduction
• Malaria is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in children under the age of five (CU5) in Nigeria (1).
• Seasonal malaria chemoprevention (SMC) implementation began in 2015 in Zamfara State.
• Implementation contended with difficulties around payment of SMC personnel (community drug distributors [CDDs], health facility workers, and local government teams) and incomplete submission of data, specifically with heightened security risks.
• To mitigate these challenges, E-tools—CDD nomination, CDD attendance, call-in data, and in-process monitoring forms—were introduced in 2021 to overcome these challenges, and SMC personnel were provided practical training on their use.
• Throughout SMC implementation, monitoring and supervisory support was provided by state trainers on use of these tools.

Methods
The team compared the SMC implementation processes and outcomes before and after the introduction of the e-tools in 2020 and 2021, respectively.

Results
Analysis of processes and outcomes of the data for 2020 and 2021 showed that:
• Deployment of CDDs’ e-nomination forms reduced the number of working days for CDD selection and engagement from 6 to 2.
• The deployment of the e-attendance increased CDDs’ daily attendance submission from 5% to over 85%.
• The daily call-in data received from health facilities on delivery of the SMC drugs increased from 14% to 80%.
• The field supervisors’ submission of in-process monitoring reports increased from 35% to 100%.
• The duration of personnel replacement reduced from 20 to 3 working days due to the establishment of a replacement protocol aided by the unique ID numbers linked to every registered personnel.
• The timeline for payment of SMC actors reduced from 30 to 3 working days.

Discussion
• The e-tools contributed to improved microplanning by facilitating the inclusion of and provision for CU5 in internally displaced persons camps and hard-to-reach communities.
• The e-tools had a positive impact on overall program management, monitoring, commodity availability, personnel management, and payment processes.
• They also contributed to the increased availability of real-time data for prompt decision-making, cost efficiencies throughout the process, and improved SMC delivery, including in security-challenged areas.