

Malaria Observatories: premium on capacity-building and building-capacity

By : Michel ODIKA

Malaria observatories require a critical mass of committed and experienced professionals and institutions. They must not only carry out organizational and/or technical tasks, but they must equally be able to balance flexibility and coherence, adapt to new ways of working, and build credibility and legitimacy.



Published on
Booksie

[www.booksie.com/Michel ODIKA](http://www.booksie.com/Michel%20ODIKA)

Copyright © Michel ODIKA, 2012
Publish your writing on Booksie.com.

Malaria Observatories: premium on capacity-building and building-capacity

Malaria Observatories: premium on capacity-building and building-capacity

Facing the facts (10 requirements)

Michel ODIKA

Thereâs a man all over for you, blaming on his boots the faults of his feet (Samuel BECKETT, dramatist and playwright).

Building-capacity

Capacity-building

1. Shift from the reactive to the active and strategic
2. Foundation on which to build comprehensive, effective and evidence-based responses
3. Roots in fieldwork, principled politics and widely held expectations
4. Keeping up momentum on anticipation and innovation
5. Collaboration and participation of actors
6. Coordination and integration of sectors
7. Network of expertise and experience
8. Building a critical mass of capacity for safety, quality, credibility and legitimacy

Cross-cutting requirements

9. Premium on better governance and further leadership
10. Scale efficiencies

Salutary warningâ

The ultimate responsibility for shaping national malaria responses traditionally lies with established governments. However, shaping does not necessarily suggest that governments should â or could â conduct the malaria response on their own. Many actors â e.g. health professionals, sanitation experts, environmentalists, sociologistsâ - have a role to play. In practical terms, the explicit responsibility for addressing malaria that is entrusted to government agencies is unique and is rooted in principled politics as well as in widely held expectations.

Malaria Observatories: premium on capacity-building and building-capacity

Now more than ever, only Malaria Observatories (1,2,3) can be effective in steering the response to malaria, notably in resource-constrained settings. A more effective public sector stewardship of the malaria response is, thus, justified on the grounds of greater safety, efficiency and equity. Unfortunately, this crucial stewardship role may be misinterpreted as a mandate for centralized planning and complete administrative control of the response to malaria. Yet, some types of public health emergencies – i.e. malaria in the hardest-hit countries (4) – can require, when/where necessary, authoritative command-and-control management.

All this simply means, ultimately, that public and quasi-public institutions – e.g. Malaria Observatories, once established – have to mediate the social contract between institutions of medicine, health and society.

Doctor Michel ODIKA

1. Malaria Observatory: Summary in 10 key-points (Michel ODIKA, Slide presentation, 2010).
2. Malaria Observatories: Opportunity for Development (Michel ODIKA, World Bank, 2010).
3. Analysis and comments on malaria (Michel ODIKA, Nature, 2010).
4. Ending Malaria Deaths in Africa (Jeffrey SACHS, Scientific American, 2007).

Malaria Observatories: premium on capacity-building and building-capacity

**Other work by Michel ODIKA
Available on Booksie.com**

Health and Fitness

[Advocacy for a Malaria Observatory in Congo-Brazzaville](#)

[Malaria response: spending money where it most helps](#)

[Malaria Observatory: Timely Public Health Intelligence](#)

[Crucial necessity for merging the Ministries of Health and Environment](#)

[Health and Environment: Towards a Network of Expertise](#)

[Created from Booksie.com](#)

Generated: 2012-05-16 18:38:34