



Office of Inspector General

February 14, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Director, Office of Health, Infectious Diseases and Nutrition,
Richard Greene

FROM: Acting Director, Performance Audits Division, Michael W. Clinebell /s/

SUBJECT: Management Letter on USAID's Commodities for Malaria Prevention and Treatment

Based on our work on the President's Malaria Initiative, we are transmitting this management letter to communicate observations and actions taken by USAID to improve the procurement, storage and distribution of commodities for malaria prevention and treatment.

We appreciate the cooperation and courtesies that your staff extended to the Office of Inspector General. If you have questions concerning this letter, please contact me at (202) 712-5348.

Attachment (a/s)

Observations Related to Work on USAID's Commodities for Malaria Prevention and Treatment

Work conducted in Liberia and Malawi confirmed that essential malarial commodities are reaching the intended beneficiaries and that USAID is working with host governments to strengthen their supply chains.

Notwithstanding these accomplishments, auditors observed two areas in which USAID could improve the implementation of the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI):

Determining the Usefulness of Malaria Data Collection Centers:

USAID's "Guidelines for Indicator and Data Quality" (TIPS No. 12) states that managers should establish and maintain performance monitoring systems that regularly collect data which enable the assessment of progress towards achieving results. In order to evaluate impact and outcome indicators to better understand the impact of PMI supported activities, USAID supports 55 malaria data collection sites in health care centers in 10 PMI countries.

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) suggested that USAID conduct an assessment of the usefulness of the malaria data collection centers, document the results, and discontinue funding for sites that are not producing consistent and reliable data to report on results.

Global Health's Office of Health, Infectious Diseases and Nutrition (GH/HIDN) agreed with the observation and has taken the following action:

- Conducted assessments of malaria data collection centers in all PMI countries, documented the results, and will no longer fund 29 malaria data collection centers in 7 of 10 countries.

Monitoring the Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Handling Insecticides:

USAID's *Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) Training Guide for Spray Operations* provides guidelines and basic procedures to plan for insecticide spraying operations. During Malawi's 2009 spray campaign, auditors noted that not all spray personnel were properly equipped and protected from residual insecticides. Due to a lack of oversight by USAID's implementing partner, washers cleaning spray operator's protective equipment wore torn gloves and did not have chemical aprons, goggles, or face shields as outlined in the training manual. As a result, washers may have been exposed to residual insecticides.

The OIG suggested that USAID ensure that workers handling insecticides are properly protected, personal protective equipment is in good condition, and extra supplies are always on hand to replace damaged equipment.

GH/HIDN agreed with the observation and has taken the following action:

- Drafted more detailed guidelines for personal protective equipment (PPE) in the *IRS Training Guide for Spray Operators* and field tested the manual at three regional workshops to train local consultants and representatives on inspection processes. The training guide will instruct implementing partners to adhere to the following guidelines: "Gloves should be examined carefully before use for any signs of wear or tear, particularly in the areas between the fingers. If there is any doubt about their protectiveness, they should be replaced. At the end of each day's use, gloves must be washed inside as well as outside before they are used again." GH/HIDN will also instruct implementing partners to procure a buffer supply of PPE in anticipation of wear and tear, and will check for this supply during routine field visit.