

Topic Overview

Strengthening Household and Community Action for the Prevention and Control of Arboviral Diseases in the Caribbean

Stakeholder Dialogue 26 April 2017

The Caribbean Public Health Agency convened a stakeholder dialogue on Strengthening Household and Community Action for the Prevention and Control of Arboviral Diseases in the Caribbean. With support from the Pan American Health Organization, the dialogue brought together 18 participants with backgrounds in research, insect vector control, health promotion; environmental health, social marketing, information technology; and behavioural sciences.

Deliberation about the problem

The participants agreed that difficulties were encountered in achieving sustained household and community action, to eliminate sources of vector breeding. While knowledge, attitudes, and limitations in household skills and abilities were some of the reasons accounting for this, the participants also felt that issues related to public information dissemination, the quality and effectiveness of the national control campaigns, and system and structural deficiencies throughout the public sector, also contributed to the problem. The participants therefore suggested that an overarching conceptual framework was needed to guide problem definition and analysis.



Stakeholders from various sectors at the Caribbean Public Health Agency's stakeholder dialogue, held on 26 April 2017 in Guyana, West Indies

Deliberation about an approach

The participants identified multiple problems influencing community participation in vector control. They therefore suggested that behaviour change beyond the individual level was needed and should address all factors that impacted households and communities, including institutional performance and supportive policies. To achieve this, the participants suggested that the user-centered design approach be adopted, to identify behaviour change requirements at the level of the government, the community and households. This would further call for careful examination of the issues related to: i) governments' vision and policy framework for integrated vector management (IVM) and community participation in IVM (strategic issues); ii) identification and prioritization of programs for community involvement and the assignment of community roles (tactical issues); and iii) the specific types of interventions to be implemented in communities (operational issues).

Deliberation about next steps

Fourteen actions for accelerated implementation were prioritized by the group: 1) Renew the focus on integrated vector management; 2) Strengthen multi-sectoral participation; 3) Review the structure and functioning of national vector control programs, 4) Commission a study of the economic burden of arboviral diseases in the Caribbean; 5) Increase Communication for Behavioural Impact training; 6) Review the competency requirements for Environmental Health/ Vector Control Officers; 7) Conduct qualitative research studies to update understanding of household and communities constraints; 8) Evaluate existing health promotion and education campaigns, and community-based interventions; 9) Hold discussions with Caribbean Examinations Council and Ministries of Education to identify the feasibility of using the school curriculum to support education and awareness.; 10) Undertake a pilot study of the use of incentives to strengthen household and community action; 11) Make greater use of 'Mosquito Awareness Week'; 12) Examine how informal community leaders could be formally included in community-based activities; 13) Expand the activities of the Regional Network on Research and Control of Emerging Vector-Borne Diseases in the Caribbean, to include a Discussion Forum and a repository of best practices; 14) Link the work of the Regional Network on Research and Control of Emerging Vector-Borne Diseases in the Caribbean and the work of the Regional Health Communication Network, to allow for the pursuit of joint objectives.

Dialogue deliverables

To learn more about this topic, consult the [evidence brief](#) that was presented to participants before the dialogue, and the [summary of the dialogue](#). For an electronic copy of the evidence brief or dialogue summary, visit our [website](#)



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