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Malaria surveillance system evaluation, Sunyani Municipality, Ghana-2017

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Malaria, a preventable mosquito-borne disease, constitutes a major public health problem globally, particularly in Africa where it kills an estimated 394,680 people annually. In Ghana, Malaria accounts for 38.9% of all outpatient illnesses and 38.8% of admissions. Malaria is a priority disease under surveillance. The objective of the study was to evaluate the effectiveness of the surveillance system and assess the attributes and make appropriate recommendations.. We interviewed stakeholders and key informants using semi-structured questionnaires to understand the system operations. We reviewed and compared 2012-2016 malaria registers and reporting forms with existing data in the DHIMS 2. Using SPSS version 21, descriptive data analysis was done. CDC updated guidelines for evaluating public health surveillance system was used in assessing the attributes. Positive malaria cases declined from 50,504 in 2012 to 43,467 in 2013, continual increased to 56540 (47.1%) in 2016. Under 5 positive cases recorded, 2012 recorded 17,852 (35%), 2015 and 2016 recorded 17,611 (32.8%) and 18,475 (32%) respectively. Age group, 1-4 have the highest positive malaria cases, with mean 5,919. Of 88,103 malaria cases treated in 2014, 38.1% (n=33532) were not tested, 13% (n=8739) of 67,295 cases treated were not tested in 2016. Reporting rate of malaria datasets was 97.5%, three (3) out of (30) facilities do not report cases. The system is flexible, sensitive and stable. Timeliness (86%), Completeness (20) and predictive positive value 53,567 (49%) were poor in 2015. The surveillance system is meeting its objectives. Improvement on data completeness and timeliness needs to be done. Suspected malaria should be tested before treatment and followed up. Rigorous supervision on proper documentation and timely reporting should be enforced in the Municipality.

Biography

Joseph Effah-Acheampong is a public health researcher at a reputable non-governmental organization in Ghana. He holds a BSc in public health and currently pursuing a Master of Philosophy degree in Applied Epidemiology and Diseases Control at the School of Public Health, University of Ghana. With the rudiments in public health he has acquired, he has been involved in a lot of community health with much emphasis on infectious disease and control. He is currently the head of the public health unit of Anidaso Ghana ev. Mr Effah-Acheampong holds a certificate in monitoring and evaluation which gives him the skills to effectively monitor and evaluate interventions which are been implemented at all levels of the disease prevention and control cycle.

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