

## **An inclusive health system: Leveraging on the private health sector for quality in malaria management**

Mbondo Mwende, Musuva Anne, Aloo Steve, Muchoki Terry

### **Background:**

For people centered care, competent health practitioners are required to deliver health care that is responsive to the needs of people accessing health services. The private health sector forms a significant part of Kenya's health system. In Kenya, Malaria is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality. The Ministry of Health recommends diagnosis of malaria with microscopy or a rapid diagnostic test kit (RDT). RDTs are available in the public sector with little penetration in the private sector. To inform the introduction of RDTs in the private sector a baseline mapping survey was carried out.

### **Methodology**

The mapping was carried out among outlets in Mombasa and Msambweni counties through a census approach. Data was obtained through interviews of the outlet incharges. Data collected included the registration status, staff qualifications, infrastructure available and the services offered. Data were analyzed through descriptive analysis using frequencies and proportions.

### **Results and discussion**

A total of 301 outlets were mapped. 88% consented to involvement in the pilot. 70% of the facilities were registered. Over 90% of the outlets had appropriate staffing. 65.6% of the facilities had access to piped water and 21% of the pharmacies had a consultation room. 99% of the outlets offered malaria treatment. Malaria diagnosis was offered by 87.6% of the facilities and 22% of the pharmacies. RDTs were used by 2.3% of the pharmacies and 69% of facilities. 14.2% of pharmacies referred patients with fever .

### **Conclusion**

The private commercial health sector plays a significant role in providing quality care to Kenyans. The majority of outlets were registered and willing to participate in the pilot. Almost all the private outlets mapped provide malaria treatment, with only a fraction providing diagnosis. A key strategy therefore is to shift the providers towards diagnosis using RDTs prior to treatment of suspected malaria cases.