

Functioning status of malaria volunteer workers in malaria endemic areas of Mandalay region, Myanmar

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Abstract

Objective: In Myanmar, achievement of malaria elimination is targeted by 2030. Participation of malaria volunteer worker in malaria control has been identified as one possible strategy to address the shortage of basic health services in areas where accessibility to health centers is limited. This study aimed to assess the functioning status of the malaria volunteer workers as to determine their knowledge about malaria, actions in malaria control and prevention and their difficulties and suggestions for improvement of the program and further elimination processes.

Method: It was cross-sectional descriptive study conducted in selected townships of Mandalay Region during 2018 February and March. Total of 87 malaria volunteers were interviewed using the structured questionnaires.

Results: Out of the total 87 malaria volunteers, 63.2% were female. 72.4% were married. Their mean age was 35 in years with youngest being 18 years old and the eldest 65 years old. The 42.5% of them were farmers. In general, almost all of them had knowledge on causes, prevention and the signs and symptoms of malaria but very few had no enough knowledge about them. Regarding knowledge on treatment of malaria according to national malaria treatment guideline, only 85.4% answered correctly. 88.1 % of them had distributed knowledge about malaria to the community, the main method of health education being the health talks (75.6%). 28.4 % of them had referred malaria patients to higher health facilities. A few of them (4.2%) could not comply with regular reporting because of their busy personal occupation and transportation difficulties during rainy season. They suggested continuing health education campaigns about malaria for their community and being supported more travel allowances.

Conclusion: Regular refresher training and supporting some aids for malaria volunteers are necessary for improvement of their knowledge and performance on malaria elimination.

Key Words: Malaria volunteer worker; knowledge; functioning status; elimination;