Malaria Control Policy Proposal: Using Chinese Experience to Tackle Malaria in Tanzania

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Abstract: As one of the worst affected countries in the world, Tanzania has been fighting malaria with the help of foreign aid, but has never been eradicated. The report recommends that at a time when malaria cases in Africa are on the rise due to the pandemic outbreak and public health is once again in the international spotlight, the fight against malaria should be on the agenda. The report recommends the establishment of a malaria control pilot project in Tanzania to use China's experience in malaria control to reduce the incidence of malaria in the country. In order for the project to succeed, the report recommends that the project seek support from international foundations and Chinese antimalarial drug manufacturers, secure financial and drug resources, and keep the Tanzanian Ministry of Health happy, governments and malaria research institutions in the areas where the project is being implemented, and try to gain support from populations and hospitals in the areas where the project is being implemented, while monitoring local NGOs and the media. Make sure they don't object to the project.

Keywords: Maria Elimination; Foreign Aid; Stakeholders; Policy-Making

1. Executive Summary

As one of the most malaria-stricken countries globally, Tanzania has been fighting malaria with the help of foreign aid, but it has never been eliminated. This report recommends that the fight against malaria be put on the agenda when malaria cases in Africa are on the rise due to the outbreaks of the pandemic, and public health issues are again at the forefront of international attention. The report recommends policy transfer of China's anti-malaria experience and the setting up an anti-malaria pilot project in Tanzania to reduce malaria incidence. The report identifies eight stakeholders and analyses their influence and interest in the policy separately. Foreign aid donors who can provide financial and material support are among the most critical stakeholders. The report divides the policy development phase into four sub-stages: assessment, dialogue, formation and consolidation, and analyses the timing and strategies for engaging stakeholders.

2. Problem identification and Policy advice

2.1 Problem identification

Malaria is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality in Tanzania (Alonso et al., 2019), and the country has one of the highest malaria burdens in the world (Aide et al., 2019). Malaria mortality in Africa nearly doubled in 2020 due to pandemic-related disruptions, with much more significant increases conceivable in the following years (Weiss et al.,2021).To avoid undermining two decades of malaria development, avoiding this public health catastrophe must be prioritized alongside the pandemic response (ibid). Scarcity of resources and weak health system financing forces the country to rely on international donors (Alonso et al., 2019). After the outbreak of the pandemic, the public health issue is raised great attention from the international community (Wang et al., 2020). Against this background, this report suggests that Tanzania uses this "window of opportunity" (Birkland, 2007) to bring Malaria

tackling on the agenda to gain international support.

2.2 Policy advice

This report suggests to transfer China's policy in tackling Malaria to Tanzania (Dolowitz & Marsh, 2000), as one part of the overall policy and strategy of the anti- malaria strategy in Tanzania. In the last 30 years, large-scale antimalaria campaigns have been established and have achieved much success in China, including universal testing and universal access to medication (Zhang et al., 2018). In recent years several African countries have introduced China's anti-malaria experience in the form of pilot projects and have achieved good anti-malaria results (Khatib et.al., 2018).

The World Health World has been calling for aggressive new approaches to jump- start progress against malaria (NYIAM & Ngwu, 2020). The pandemic has led to a rebound in malaria cases, and the need for innovative anti-malarial solutions has become more urgent. Therefore, this report suggests launching a pilot project in Tanzania, hoping that this innovative policy can reduce the infectious malaria rate while testing whether the Chinese anti-malaria experience is practical and have the potential to be promoted to a larger scale in the future.
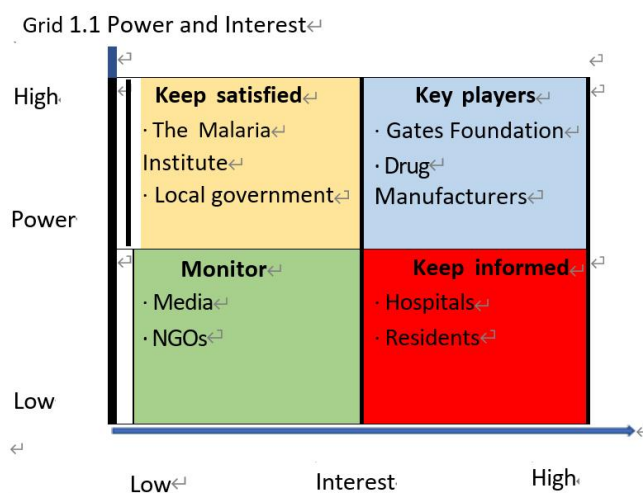
3. Stakeholders analysis

This report uses stakeholder analysis (Schmeer, 2000) to identity stakeholders. It divides stakeholders analysis into stakeholders identification, stakeholders comparison, policy formulation stages analysis and stakeholder engagement strategies analysis, it finally draw a stakeholder analysis matrix as a summary.

3.1 Stakeholders identification

To get the most support for this project, the project stakeholders need to be identified first. They are people who have an interest (stake) and the potential to influence the actions and aims of this policy (Crosby, 1992). Stakeholders in the project include Gates Foundation, Chinese anti-malarial drug manufacturers, Malaria research institutions, local government in the pilot areas, residents involved in the project, hospitals in the pilot areas, the media and local NGOs. The reasons why they can stakeholders are stated below.

3.2 Stakeholders (power and interest) analysis

Based on the power and interest that each stakeholder has, this report divides stakeholders into four groups: stakeholders who have high power and high interest are key players; they are the priority and need to engage actively; stakeholders who have high power and low interest need to be kept satisfied; stakeholders who have low power and high interest should be kept informed; stakeholders who have low power and low interest are the least important, they are the low priority, need to be monitored. The grid below depicts the power and interest of stakeholders.

Grid 1.1 Power and Interest

	Keep satisfied	Key players
High	· The Malaria Institute	· Gates Foundation
	· Local government	· Drug Manufacturers
Power	Monitor	Keep informed
	· Media	· Hospitals
	· NGOs	· Residents
Low		

Low — Interest — High

3.2.1 Key stakeholders

The Gates Foundation's strategic goal is to eliminate malaria globally by 2040 (Newby et al., 2016), and it has been supporting anti-malaria efforts in Tanzania (Aide et al., 2019). Since opening its China office in 2007, the Foundation has been working to

increase China's engagement in global public health and has previously been involved in projects to promote the replication of China's antimalarial experience in other African countries (Xia et al., 2014). They will therefore be highly interested in this policy. The Foundation also has a great deal of power. As the world's largest private Foundation with a long history of supporting anti-malaria projects around the world (Levich, 2015), the Gates Foundation is not only able to provide strong financial support for projects but also to share its experience in the fight against malaria. In addition, it has close ties with a variety of international organizations that can provide technical, equipment and information support for projects.

China's Yunnan Kunming Pharmaceutical is the only factory in Tanzania that produces Chinese antimalarials and has a great deal of power as it must be supported by this pharmaceutical company if the project is to be implemented. For a long time, there has not been much of a market for Chinese antimalarials in Africa compared to those from Western countries (Shajalal et al., 2017). Participation in this project could raise the visibility of the drug and boost its sales in the country; besides, if the project is successful, there is the possibility of a larger national rollout in the future, which would open up the sales market for the drug in the country. The drug company would therefore show great interest in this project.

3.2.2 Stakeholders that need to be kept satisfied

The Malaria Institute has a high level of policy influence but low interest. With a long history of research on the malaria situation in the country, the institute can provide expert advice on the technical aspects of policy transfer. With a long history of research on the malaria situation in the country, the institute can provide expert advice on the technical aspects of policy transfer. However, the institute is not very interested in this project. Because their main task is to study the malaria situation in the country, participation in foreign aid projects is not high on their agenda. In addition, previous foreign aid projects have not been very effective unless they are convinced of the uniqueness of the project. Unless they are convinced of the uniqueness of the project, it will be difficult to convince them to participate.

Local governments in the pilot areas have a great deal of power as the implementation of the project must get their permission first. Also, they have a lot of influence in mobilizing local people to participate in the project, which is the key to the project's success. However, the local government may not be very interested in it as they are highly likely to be blamed by the locals if any problem arises during the implementation of the project.

3.2.3 Stakeholders that need to be kept informed

The local hospitals may show great interest in this project though they don't have much power. Malaria is the leading cause of care-seeking, the high incidence of malaria in the local area places a heavy workload on local hospitals. The implementation of a malaria control project can reduce the burden on local hospitals and bring new experience in fighting malaria, so local hospitals are interested in it. However, local hospitals are not able to exert much influence on the project because of their outdated equipment and the already heavy workload of their doctors, who are not able to bring human and equipment resources to the project.

The local people in the project sites have long suffered from malaria. Despite the availability of free malaria treatment, Tanzanian households face substantial direct and indirect costs as a result of the disease (Alonso et al., 2019). They and are eager for foreign aid projects to help eliminate malaria and improve their health, so they show a high level of interest in the projects. However, they are most likely the smallest amount of power of all the groups, they seek to benefit the most from the policy and it cannot work without their involvement but unless they are part of groups with strong and coherent voices then they have little influence.

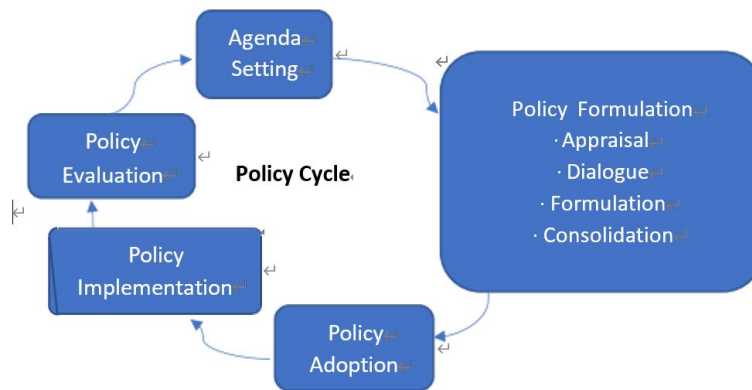## 3.2.4 Stakeholders that need to be monitored

The media is not very interested in the foreign aid anti-malaria programme, as it is an old topic in Tanzania. But suppose there are certain channels through which the media can be fully informed about how the policy differs from previous foreign aid projects. In that case, it might be possible to mobilise their interest in reporting on it. The media have medium power because, through their coverage, the policy can become known to the public and increase public participation in the project.

Local NGOs will not be too interested in this project, as similar Chinese projects in African countries have previously been accused of human rights violations (Wang et al.,2019). If good communication with local NGOs is not maintained, the project may face opposition from them and may not progress smoothly.

3.3 When and how to involve stakeholders

This report mainly focuses on the policy formulation stage. Following an initial "agenda- setting" stage, this stage identifies, refines and formalizes policy options that might help resolve the problem recognized (Howlett & Mukherjee, 2017). This report further breaks this stage down into four sub-stages: appraisal, dialogue, formulation and consolidation (Thomas, 2001). The diagram below shows the policy cycle and policy formulation stage. Based on the analysis above, the table below presents a summary of how and when to get stakeholders involved in the policy.

Diagram 1.1

When	Stakeholder Name	Engagement Strategy	Aim
Appraisal Phase ↓	The Malaria Institute	Holding workshop to · Understand the current magnitude of malaria · Identify the areas where malaria is most severe · Discussing the feasibility of China's experience	Gather information and evidence necessary to understand the problem
Dialogue Phase ↓	Gates Foundation	Holding meetings to · Discuss the best way to work together ·The level of support they can provide ·	Exchange of different viewpoints about the policy goals and potential means to resolve them
	Chinese drug manufacturer	Having meetings to · Discuss the best way to work together ·The level of support they can provide · Know local acceptance of Chinese antimalarial drugs	
Formulation Phase ↓	Local government	Having meetings to · Understand the lessons of previous anti-malaria projects on the ground · Understand local government perceptions of the project · Understand local realities	Develop the policy with consideration of the local context in which the project will be implemented

	Local Hospital	Having forum to · Find out the hospital's views and suggestions on policies ·Seek possible areas of collaboration (e.g., equipment, manpower support) · Learn about the malaria cycle and frequency of visits by local people	
Consolidation Phase ↓	Media	Holding press conferences to · Inform the media the draft policy ·Get their support to cover the news ·	Emend or refine the proposed policy solutions based on public opinions before moving forward
	NGOs	Holding meetings to · Inform them about the project in general · Understand their concerns · Listen to their suggestions for the project	
	Local people	Holding forum to · Inform them about the project in general · Understand their concerns about the project · Listen to their suggestions for the project	

4. Conclusion

The report recommends that malaria control in Tanzania be put on the agenda at a time when public health issues are becoming a global concern following the outbreak of the pandemic. As a result, the report recommends the creation of a pilot malaria control project in Tanzania to reduce the incidence of malaria in the country using Chinese experience in the fight against malaria. For the project to be successful, the report recommends that it seeks to obtain support from international foundations and Chinese antimalarial drug production companies with financial and drug resources, and that it maintains the satisfaction of the Tanzania Ministry of Health, the government of the area where the project is being implemented and the Malaria Research Institutions, and that it works to gain the support of the population and hospitals in the area where the project is being implemented, in addition to monitor local NGOs and the media to ensure that they do not oppose project implementation.

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