

Support activities and milestones

Learning objectives:

By the end of this Unit you should be able to:

- identify relevant programme support activities
- describe modern approaches to training
- list the elements of a needs assessment
- define a milestone
- set milestones for malaria control

In deriving the activities necessary to achieve operational targets a number of support activities, depending on local circumstances, are necessary to implement the selected interventions. Training, supervision, information, education and communication are necessary for almost any intervention, but the technical content and the target groups may be very different. The personnel needing training in laboratory diagnosis are not likely to be identical to the staff requiring training in clinical disease management or in spraying. The way supervision is carried out is also likely to be very different. Hence, support activities related to different malaria control interventions may and may not be integrated. It is therefore important at the planning stage to define the targets, establish the activities, and identify which are support activities. The following are some general support activities for almost all approaches.

Training

It is important to distinguish between the training of a core group of specialists (the national capability development) and the training of service staff. Normally, the national core group is responsible for planning and implementing the training programme, although the members of the core group are not necessarily themselves the trainers.