

Reactive Case Detection (RACD) Monitoring & Evaluation Tool

Key messages

- Reactive case detection (RACD) is a form of active case detection, a World Health Organization-recommended strategy for identifying and treating additional malaria infections (from an index case) in areas of low malaria transmission.
- Though RACD is a widely-used surveillance intervention, reporting and implementation challenges can lead to the diminished effectiveness of this approach.
- Recognizing that there were no standard metrics or tools to monitor and evaluate malaria case notification, case investigation, and RACD activities, the MEI developed the RACD Monitoring & Evaluation Tool to guide national malaria programs in identifying which of these activities are being performed well and which can be improved.
- Use of the RACD tool will help national malaria programs to make evidence-based decisions to strengthen their active surveillance activities. Ensuring complete and timely follow-up of all positively identified malaria cases and high levels of screening coverage of RACD are both critical to reduce the potential for continued transmission.



About the Toolkit

The MEI Malaria Elimination Toolkit is a set of proven tools and approaches to help malaria endemic countries accelerate progress toward malaria elimination. Developed by the Malaria Elimination Initiative (MEI) at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), the toolkit addresses the unique challenges faced by national malaria programs in heterogeneous transmission settings. These tools have been used successfully at the national and/or subnational levels, leading to important changes in malaria policy and practice.

The MEI recognizes that implementing any new tool or approach can be challenging. Technical assistance is available to support the tailoring and implementation of all MEI tools. Please visit our website shrinkingthemalariamap.org or contact us for more information at mei@ucsf.edu.

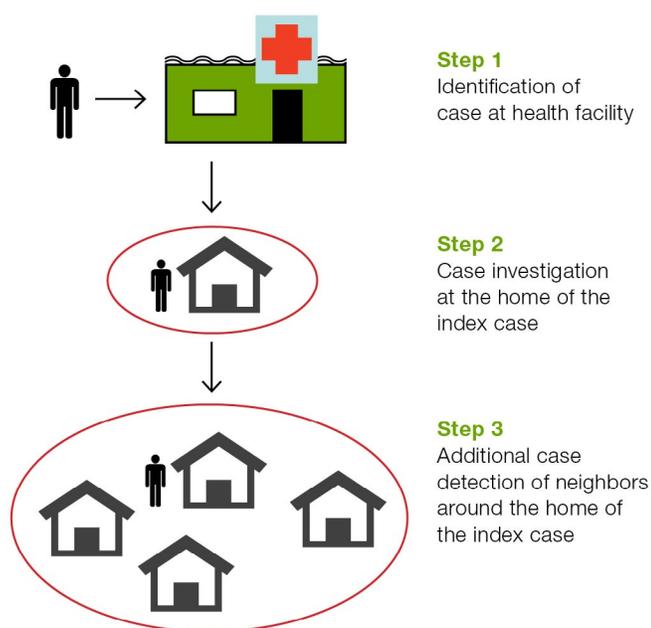
What is active case detection and reactive case detection?

Active case detection (ACD) is a World Health Organization (WHO) recommended strategy aimed at identifying and treating additional malaria infections in areas of low transmission, often at the community and household level. ACD involves screening individuals that may be at risk for malaria, regardless of the presence of malaria symptoms such as fever. This approach potentially shortens the length of time that a person is infected and infectious, treats people before they become

seriously ill, and provides information that can be used to target transmission areas with vector control activities to reduce the risk of malaria.

Reactive case detection (RACD) is a commonly used form of ACD. RACD involves case investigation, whereby passively detected malaria cases (index cases) are traced to their residence to determine the suspected origin of infection (local, introduced or imported infection), and ascertain if onward transmission of malaria is possible. If the area is receptive to malaria transmission, testing of additional contacts is carried out. RACD is conducted around an index case because evidence suggests that additional malaria infections cluster in close proximity to the index household. Figure 1 describes the steps in the malaria case notification, case investigation and RACD follow-up process.

Figure 1.



What is the Reactive Case Detection (RACD) Monitoring & Evaluation Tool and why is it useful?

The RACD M&E Tool can provide support to national malaria programs in making evidence-based decisions to strengthen their active surveillance of malaria cases. With the RACD M&E Tool, national malaria programs will be able to evaluate operational components in their current active surveillance program, such as completeness, timeliness, screening coverage, and additional positive malaria cases identified. Ensuring complete and timely follow-up of all positively identified malaria cases and high levels of screening coverage of RACD are both critical to reduce the potential for continued transmission in malaria-eliminating settings.

Who should use this tool and how?

As the RACD M&E Tool is designed for program managers and staff to monitor and evaluate their RACD strategies, implementation is usually led by national- or provincial-level malaria program managers or surveillance officers. The high-level manager leads implementation of all modules, with data collection and data entry activities supported by provincial and district surveillance teams and health facility staff.

The RACD M&E Tool is comprised of four modules. Each module has an instruction manual and Microsoft Excel and/or Word templates created to automatically calculate outputs of summary statistics and proportions, tailored to the data collected in that module. The modules focus on reviewing key documents and personnel, assessing key malaria indicators, evaluating standard operating procedures, and estimating costs.

The Malaria Elimination Initiative (MEI) at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) believes a malaria-free world is possible within a generation. As a forward-thinking partner to malaria eliminating countries and regions, the MEI generates evidence, develops new tools and approaches, disseminates experiences, and builds consensus to shrink the malaria map. With support from the MEI's highly skilled team, countries around the world are actively working to eliminate malaria.

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