



A decision-making tool to improve the effectiveness of the delivery of IPTp and ITNs

Jayne Webster, Jenny Hill, Anna Maria van Eijk, Rick Steketee

Background

- Need to increase coverage with IPTp-SP and ITNs during pregnancy
- IPTp delivered mainly through ANC, whilst ITNs through many channels
- ANC currently the major recommended continuous delivery system for ITNs by RBM
- Systematic review highlighted the myriad of barriers involved based on studies that have been conducted
- Current empirical studies show how ineffective processes and their causes can be identified in specific locations

From synthesis to action

- There are still major research questions to answer particularly on effective interventions
- Improvements in survey and routine data needed together with feedback and action mechanisms
- What do we do whilst waiting for these questions to be answered and improvements in data collection, collation and use to be made?
- Use the wealth of knowledge we already have to start to take action and make improvements
- Need a structured approach to the development of action plans

Objective

The overall objective is to provide an assessment and decision tool for use by health managers to assess country and/or sub-national barriers and priority actions required for effective scale-up of the two key MiP control interventions, IPTp and ITNs.

Specific objectives

- To assist countries to capture the information they need to assess the bottlenecks/ problems experienced in the scale up of IPTp-SP and ITNs
- To develop an action plan to improve coverage, and perform repeated re-assessment over time as needed
- To apply the tool to assist with national or district level planning of malaria in pregnancy prevention strategies.

Structure of the decision tool

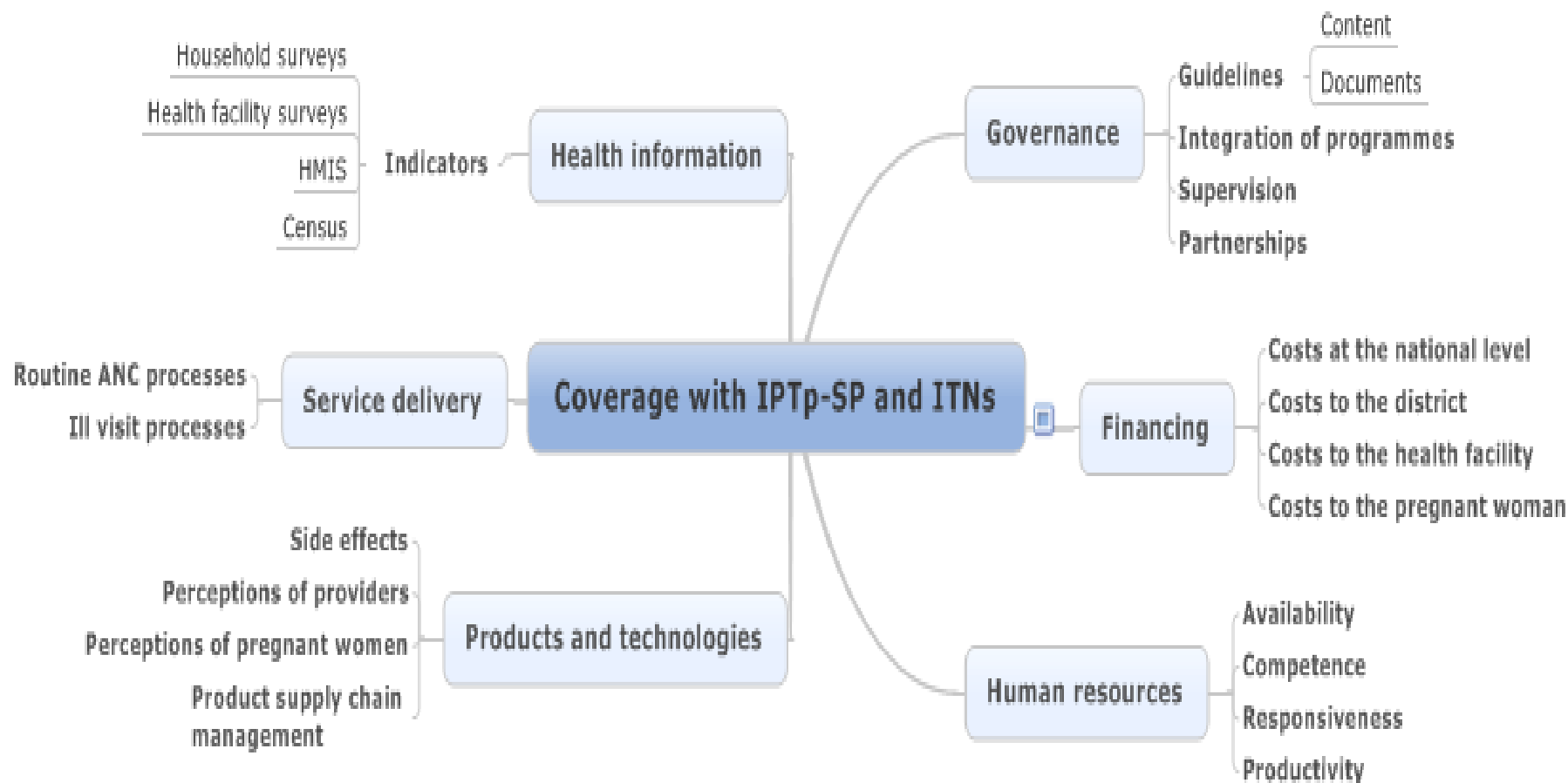
- **Section 1: Introduction and topic guide** providing an overview of the objectives, content and how to use the tool
- **Section 2: Decision algorithm** consisting of a set of questions to be answered. This is the interactive interface of the tool
- **Section 3: Problem diagnosis** consisting of a set of ‘diagnosis’ categories which are automatically generated based upon the responses entered in the decision algorithm.
- **Section 4: Action matrix** consisting of suggested remedial actions to be considered (immediate and medium to long-term) for implementation at the national or sub-national level that link to the problem diagnosis categories.

Structure of the decision tool (2)

- Additional resources (AR) include:
- **AR1: Systems algorithm figures** providing pictorial representation of the logic behind the diagnostic categories and actions suggested
- **AR2: Evidence base to support actions** providing a summary of evidence to support suggested actions, where evidence is available
- These can be expanded to include for example country case studies in using the tool and acting upon decisions generated

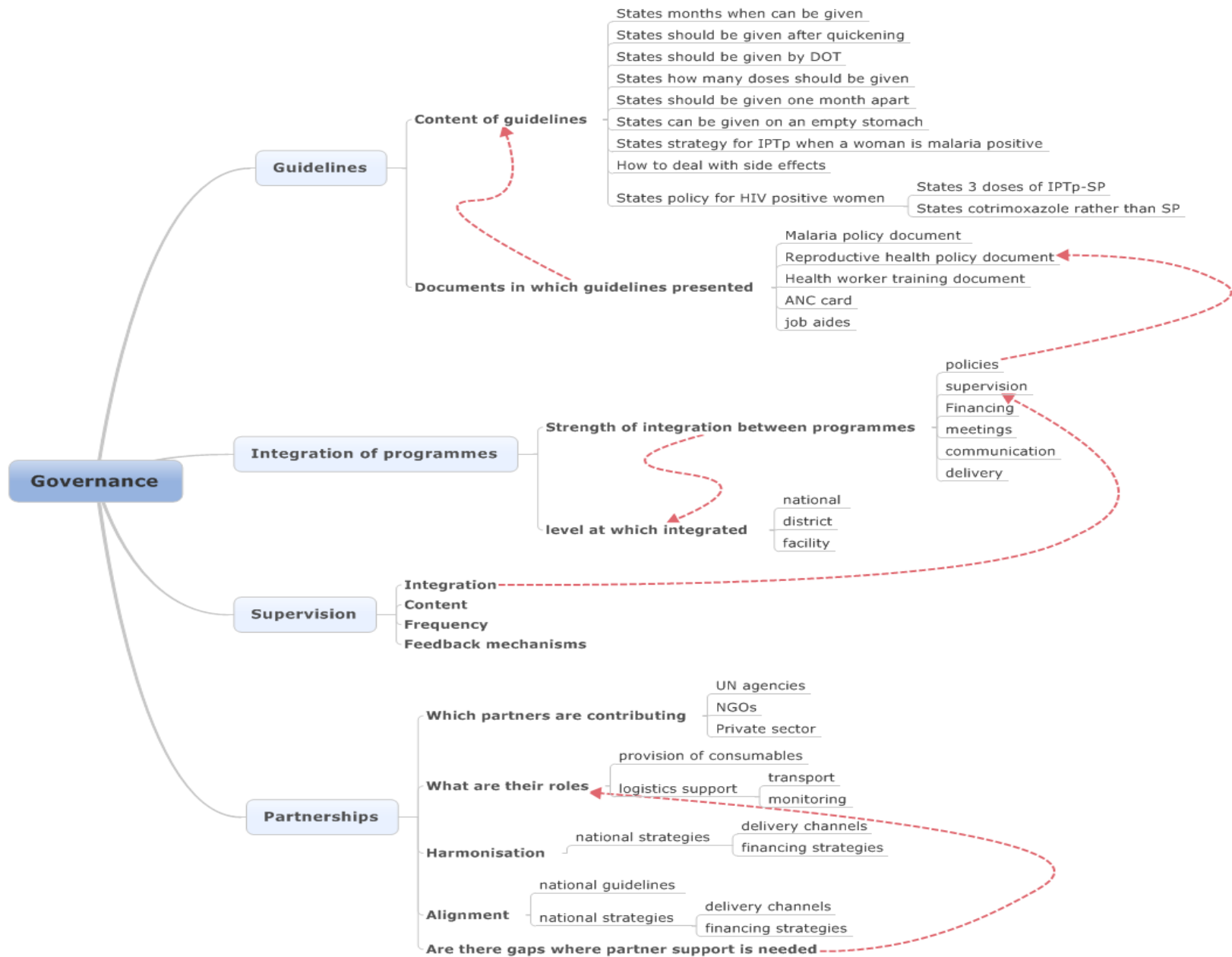
Decision tool framework

- Used to map categories of barriers for the decision algorithm and diagnosis sections of the tool
- Structured around the 6 building blocks of the health system (WHO 2007)
- This approach taken based upon the target group of health planners
- Some adaptations of the defined content of each of these blocks based upon synthesised and empirical evidence of barriers and facilitators to coverage of IPTp-SP & ITNs
- Provider and pregnant woman perceptions, and access are integrated into these building blocks



Decision tool framework (3)

- Each of the categories within the 6 blocks are expanded to sub-categories as dictated by evidence and experience
- There are linkages within the blocks
- There are linkages and overlaps between blocks



Products & technologies

SP

Side effects

Nausea
Vomiting

Perceptions of providers

Causes side effects if taken on empty stomach
effective preventing malaria
Acceptability

Perceptions of pregnant women

Cant take on empty stomach
Strong medicine 3 big tablets
Protects them against malaria
Protects unborn child against malaria
Acceptability

Product supply chain management

Forecasting needs accurate target group information
attendance at >1 health facility
Monitoring supply action plan for stock control stock-out plan
feedback on stock control
transport of SP availability of transport and fuel

ITNs

Perceptions of providers

Protects against malaria
No problems in using whilst pregnant
Acceptability

Perceptions of pregnant women

Protects them against malaria
Protects unborn child against malaria
Protects against biting insects
Acceptability

Product supply chain management

Forecasting needs accurate target group information
attendance at >1 health facility provide only to those from catchment area
Monitoring supply action plan for stock control stock-out plan
feedback on stock control feedback channels partners
government systems
transport of ITNs

Development of the action matrix




- Mind maps



- Questions



- Diagnostic categories



- Immediate actions
- Medium to long-term actions

Show prototype tool.....

Action matrix

- Immediate term actions mainly specific to IPTp-SP and ITNs but also have the potential to impact on health systems strengthening
- Medium to long-term actions often about broad health systems issues
- The decision tool contains a greater number of immediate actions than medium to long term actions
- Based upon the systematic review and empirical evidence on the effectiveness of processes of delivering IPTp and ITNs, these immediate term actions have the potential to significantly increase coverage with these efficacious interventions
- Maternal health and disease specific interventions may be an avenue for making relatively rapid but significant changes that support health systems strengthening

Next steps

- Review and revise mind maps, questions, diagnostic categories, & actions
- Complete & pilot the prototype tool
- Revise the prototype and convert to a Windows Application
- Implement the tool in a selection of countries
- Work with countries on action planning and implementation
- Evaluate the impact of implementing an action plan based upon the decision tool