Resource 1: health centre staff trainer and learner manuals
(from PRIME study in Uganda)

What are the health centre staff trainer and learner manuals?
This resource was designed to improve the quality of care for malaria at public health facilities in Tororo, Uganda.

We developed trainer and learner manuals to guide the conduct of workshops. The workshops were attended by health staff and led by trained facilitators with experience of supporting change in health worker practices and used interactive learning approaches.

The workshops were designed to be carried out in small groups of 10-15 peers who work in the same or neighbouring health centres, and at intervals of at least one week. This would allow participants to put into practice their learning from each workshop, and bring back any queries, challenges and reflections to the group in the subsequent workshop.

Who is the target audience?
Clinicians, nurses and nursing aids working at primary health care centres. In Uganda, these are Health Centre levels II and III.

What does this resource consist of?
Nine trainer manuals and nine learner manuals.

What language is this resource available in?
English.

What approach has this resource taken?
This resource is based on adult learning principles. It advocates the use of interactive processes to incorporate new ideas and resources into everyday practice.

Where has this resource been used?
Tororo, in Uganda.

Was the development of this resource based on formative research?
Yes. To develop the intervention, we carried out formative research to identify the target areas and objectives of the intervention.
We aimed to develop an intervention that was evidence-based and appropriate for the study context; could be evaluated within a randomised controlled trial; and had the potential to be scaled up sustainably.

You can read more about the research that informed the development of this resource at:


Has this resource been evaluated?

The PRIME trial was supplemented by the PROCESS study, an evaluation of the process, context, and wider impact of the PRIME intervention. Together, they provided evidence of the health impact of a public sector intervention in Uganda. You can read more about our evaluation and the PROCESS study at www.actconsortium.org/PROCESS or at:


Can this resource be used in other contexts?

This resource has the potential to be used in different contexts.

We suggest that before this resource is used, formative research is done to understand the local context and needs. This is important because the nature of malaria diagnosis and treatment practices, as well as the knowledge and perceptions of health workers and community members, varies from place to place.

Based on formative research, the resource may be adapted, tailored or changed in order to fit the specific context in which it will be used and the intended audience.

We suggest the resource is then piloted with its target audience in an iterative process in order to improve it before it is implemented. This will help to maximize the likelihood that the resources have the desired effects.

Once in place, we suggest this resource is evaluated in order to understand its potential impact and effects and the results shared as widely as possible in order to help guide and inform other communicators wishing to use the resource.

How should this resource be acknowledged?

Citation for collective manuals: Infectious Diseases Research Collaboration & ACT Consortium, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (2011). The ACT PRIME Trainer and Learner Manuals. Available at www.actconsortium.org/PRIMEmanuals

A citation for each manual is provided in the front cover of that manual.

Who should be contacted for more information or to request permission to make adaptations to this resource?

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How should this resource be used?

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You can find out more information about the PRIME study, including training manuals, videos, news stories and publications at: www.actconsortium.org/PRIME