



PROJECT BRIEF

Pioneer Project

The aim of the Pioneer Project is to reduce malaria related morbidity and mortality in Hoima, Buliisa, Kibaale and Kiboga districts

COUNTRY

Uganda

DONOR

Comic Relief

£4.3 million

LENGTH OF PROJECT

Four years

(May 2009 – April 2013)

PARTNERS

National Malaria Control Programme, Ministry of Health

District Health Teams of Buliisa, Kiboga, Kibaale and Hoima

Malaria and Childhood Illness NGO Secretariat (MACIS)

The project aims to reduce malaria morbidity and mortality through support to a range of activities in four districts in mid-Western Uganda. These districts, selected and agreed with the Ministry of Health (MoH), are Buliisa, Hoima, Kiboga, and Kibaale. The estimated population of this region is just over 1.1 million.

In the west of Uganda, malaria accounts for approximately 23% of mortality in children under-five. This high rate of malaria is linked to the intrinsically high to moderate transmission (entomological inoculation rates (EIRs) ranging from 100-1000) as well as to key health system challenges and lack of resource investment. Whilst some parts of the country have achieved both improved levels of access to health care and coverage of prevention measures, both of these in Western Uganda remain low, with less than 35% of households living within 10km of a health facility and only approximately 10% of households owning a long lasting insecticide treated net (LLIN).

The project will focus on supporting systemic malaria control by increasing both supply and

demand for malaria control tools in the region. Coverage of life saving interventions that have a dramatic impact on malaria will be rapidly increased and various information education communication (IEC) and behaviour change communication (BCC) activities carried out to increase families' knowledge about these interventions and encourage them to act on this knowledge.

By simultaneously ensuring the best available tools are accessible to the people who need them the most and increasing their understanding of the importance and effectiveness of these tools, families will be empowered to take positive action for the health of their own households, and malaria related morbidity and mortality will be dramatically reduced within this region.

Other areas of work within the project to support its goal are: health systems strengthening, monitoring and evaluation of the activities to promote learning and measure success/impact, and advocacy work at the local, national and international levels.

**malaria
consortium**

disease control, better health

Above: Young children in rural areas are particularly vulnerable to malaria. Photo Adam Nadal

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The general objective of the project is to contribute to national targets to reduce malaria related morbidity and mortality through ensuring caregivers in the four districts know how to protect their families from malaria, believe in and act on this knowledge and are able to access the best globally available tools. The project also aims to gain a deeper understanding of the most effective approaches towards achieving this.



Community members in Hoima queue to receive mosquito nets. Photo: Comic Relief

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- To increase the number of households using LLINs every night
- To reduce the mosquito density through universal coverage of LLINs
- To reduce the EIR through universal coverage of LLINs
- To reduce the annual number of febrile episodes in children under-five
- To increase the number of children under five accessing appropriate malaria treatment within 48 hours of onset of fever
- To increase the number of severely ill children referred to health facilities
- To increase the number of patients receiving correct malaria diagnosis and treatment based on rapid diagnostic test results
- The inclusion of key malaria control activities in the districts' annual work plans
- To document and disseminate lessons learnt about the best approaches for achieving systemic change in malaria control

This project has a direct impact upon initiatives to:

- ✓ **Combat malaria**
- ✓ **Support National Health Systems Strengthening**
- ✓ **Manage common childhood illnesses**
- ✓ **Conduct operational research**
- ✓ **Provide monitoring and evaluation outputs**
- ✓ **Encourage behaviour change through communications**
- ✓ **Provide health support to marginalised populations**