

A woman and child sleep under a treated mosquito net © William Daniels/Malaria Consortium

PROJECT BRIEF

Integrated lymphatic filariasis and malaria control

The purpose of this project is to help drive the finalisation, revision and implementation of guidelines to address vector control strategies, which are of benefit to both malaria and lymphatic filariasis control in areas where both diseases are endemic

Project outline

This project aims to develop a workable model for integrated vector management that will move Nigeria towards the elimination of lymphatic filariasis and, at the same time, provide control of malaria. Currently, it is estimated that up to 97 percent of the population live in areas at risk of both lymphatic filariasis and malaria. Similar to malaria, lymphatic filariasis is a mosquito-borne disease and in some areas of Nigeria is known to be transmitted by the same species of mosquito as malaria.

The use of preventive chemotherapy with the drug combination of ivermectin, plus full use of long lasting insecticidal nets, has been demonstrated to reduce the burden of both diseases. The use of vector control is particularly important for areas of Nigeria where mass drug administration with ivermectin is not advisable, due to risk of severe side effects in people affected by another parasite, eye worm (loa loa).

The ultimate goal is the eradication of lymphatic filariasis and significant reduction in the incidence of clinical malaria in targeted areas.

Country

Nigeria

Donor

UK Government (UKaid)

Length of project

March 2013 – February 2014

Partners

Federal Ministry of Health



Children enjoying a demonstration on how to use a mosquito net © Adam Nadel/Malaria Consortium

This project, funded by the UK's Department for International Development/UKaid, will undertake the following activities:

- » support the development of guidelines to inform effective coordination and implementation of malaria and lymphatic filariasis prevention measures
- » field test the guidelines
- » compile and disseminate lessons identified from the field testing

Project objectives

Because there is considerable overlap between malaria endemicity and areas with reported cases of lymphatic filariasis, as well as likely similarities in the types of mosquito important in transmitting both malaria and lymphatic filariasis, there exists the opportunity to leverage both malaria and/or lymphatic filariasis prevention efforts to help address both illnesses. This is through the implementation of vector control practices and appropriate mass drug administration. The objective of this project is the development of appropriate guidelines to deliver an integrated approach and field

testing these guidelines. After testing, the guidelines will be revised as necessary to reflect the results of the field test followed by wide scale implementation (where appropriate).

To date, meetings with implementation partners have been conducted, co-implementation guidelines have been written, approved and currently being printed.

The next step is to agree a location for field testing of the implementation guidelines (proposed location is Niger state).

This project supports efforts to deliver:

- ✓ Malaria control
- ✓ Control of childhood illnesses
- ✓ Control of neglected tropical diseases
- ✓ Health systems strengthening
- ✓ Capacity building / human resource development
- ✓ Operational research
- ✓ Policy change / advocacy
- ✓ Support for at-risk populations

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