



People gather to watch a road show promoting acceptance of malaria prevention interventions

PROJECT BRIEF

Integrated community-based interventions for malaria services

The Integrated Community-based Interventions for Malaria Services project aims to 'bridge the gaps' in health service delivery at community level in Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region, Ethiopia

Project outline

In Ethiopia, though economic growth has been progressive, poverty and low access to basic services continue to be problematic. Accessibility and quality of social services such as health, education, water and sanitation facilities are still limited, and require continued investment. With regard to health, the government, in collaboration with development partners has strived to improve healthcare, however, low utilisation of healthcare interventions and quality of those services hinders progress.

Malaria and other febrile illnesses are the leading causes of illness and death for children under five in Ethiopia, with malaria accounting for one-fifth of all in-patient and out-patient cases in Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR). Despite the availability of key interventions and services close to communities, important gaps in the uptake and effectiveness of proven malaria control interventions, such as use of long lasting insecticidal nets and indoor residual insecticide spraying (IRS), still persist.

The Integrated Community-based Interventions for Malaria Services (ICIMS) project, supported by the James Percy Foundation, aims to work closely with the public health system in place, improving both the use and effectiveness of community-based health services for malaria prevention in SNNPR, particularly among the Wolayta and Halaba ethnic groups.

Country

Ethiopia

Donor

James Percy Foundation

Length of project

January 2014 - January 2017



Promoting use of mosquito nets during behaviour change communication interventions

This three-year project will increase the uptake of healthcare services and prompt a positive change in behaviour among its 507,641 beneficiaries toward malaria prevention interventions. The project will have a particular focus on the use of mosquito nets, acceptance of IRS and early healthcare seeking. In order to achieve this, key activities such as training of health workers, strengthening community-based referral systems, and community engagement and mobilisation will be carried out. Other activities include the organisation of road shows to mobilise communities and raise awareness about malaria interventions; the establishment of anti-malaria school clubs and the assessment of health facilities in two target districts.

These activities will not only improve attitudes and behaviours with regard to malaria prevention interventions, they will also strengthen the community-based referral system to ensure that all children with fever receive early diagnosis and timely treatment at their community health post or other health facilities. This will be supported by the enhanced capacity of health workers and the improved functionality of primary health care units to provide quality care.

Together with improved attitudes and behaviours towards malaria prevention interventions, this project will improve both the use and effectiveness of community-based health services in SNNPR and result in an overall reduction in child morbidity and mortality in the target areas of Boloso Sore and Halaba of SNNPR, Ethiopia.

Project objectives

- » Undertake a sensitisation workshop to ensure stakeholder buy-in
- » Increase preventive and care-seeking behaviours of the community in relation to malaria
- » Increase the effectiveness of community referral systems
- » Increase linkages between health centres and health posts
- » Contribute to improvements in the standardisation of community health management information systems
- » Undertake monitoring and evaluation activities of the project



Raising awareness of school children using mini media

This project supports efforts to deliver:

- ✓ Prevention
- ✓ Health systems and service delivery
- ✓ Public health communications

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