Key messages

• The majority of participants preferred guppy fish over other interventions available in the community.
• Pyriproxyfen was the second most preferred intervention, however concerns still existed over dead larvae that require additional sensitization campaigns in the community.
• Results suggest that a well-developed Communication for Behavioural Impact strategy could result in high acceptance of guppies and PPF in similar communities.

Results

The majority of community members in the FGDs (50/80 or 62.5 percent) preferred guppy fish due to ease of use and rearing, quick reproduction, and propensity to eat larvae. Respondents were willing to pay 100-500riel (50.02-0.1 USD) for a pair of guppies. The next commonly preferred method was PPF (28/80 or 35 percent) due to its long-lasting effectiveness, convenience and easy maintenance. However, as PPF doesn’t kill larvae, there were some concerns over the persistent presence of larvae. These concerns can often be addressed by using community sensitisation activities to explain that PPF-exposed treated larvae do not become adults and do not carry disease. Additional concerns about access, availability and affordability of PPF were raised by FGD participants. The least preferred methods included mosquito coils, and chemical sprays due to the smell and health concerns.

The following quotes from focus groups and key informant interviews highlight community perceptions of the interventions:

“We love guppies as they are attractive, easy to keep and visibly clean the water from larvae.”

“Whenever we see the volunteer we request them to put the guppies in our jars as soon as possible to eliminate the larva”

“PPF is easy to use. When we need to clean the container, we take it out, clean the container and put it back with less hassle.”

“We don’t have fear of insecticides or the smell of PPF, however if we use abate it has a very bad smell”. 

“People do not feel happy when they see the larvae aren’t dead after the use of PPF.”

“We know PPF works well as fewer mosquitos are around, however, we are afraid the presence of larvae may contain parasites that can spread the disease”.

Conclusion

• COMBI activities were effective in creating demand for, and promoting the use of, guppies and PPF and encouraged community participation.
• A well-developed COMBI strategy can result in high acceptance of guppies and PPF.
• However, the findings also indicate that sustained PPF use requires community sensitisation activities that describe the interventions, visualise live or moribund larvae and dead pupae, and explain that adult mosquitoes, rather than larvae, are central to disease transmission.