

# Community Health Heroes in Nigeria

Working together to fight malaria

Salisu Mohammed is from Maikunkele ward in Bosso Local Government Area of Niger State, Nigeria and has been the local Councillor for Health for two years.

Salisu dedicates his time to supporting malaria and other health interventions that are brought to communities by his local government council. He shows an exceptional level of support for malaria activities. This was demonstrated by his participation in the long lasting insecticide treated net

(LLIN) distribution campaign in his area in December 2009 managed by Malaria Consortium as part of the UK government funded Support to the National Malaria Programme (SuNMaP) to achieve universal coverage of malaria control interventions. He also participates in SuNMaP's support to role-model care givers project in Niger state, which focuses on home management of malaria.

Salisu Mohammed has always been an agent for change, even while growing up. He has children who, despite having suffered malaria in the past, have been free from any fever for months. This change has occurred since they began using the LLINs they received through the distribution campaign.

Salisu was deeply involved with the LLIN mass distribution campaign, helping to raise awareness in households in his community on the importance of obtaining and using the nets to prevent malaria. Community members who used the nets and did not show signs of malaria in the months following the distribution frequently showed their appreciation for his efforts.



*Salisu Mohammed, Councillor for Health, Bosso, Niger State at a Role Model Caregiver training*

Salisu has been involved with the LLIN mass distribution campaign and made a huge difference to his community



This positive response from the community motivated Salisu to become involved in other malaria interventions as well as wider health campaigns in his community.

In his role, he is mainly responsible for ensuring that health programmes, projects and interventions planned by the local government councils reach the target beneficiaries and have the greatest impact by being sustainable. To this end, he is currently supporting the role-model care givers in his local government area to carry out their functions.

He personally attended the training for role-model care givers on the home management of malaria and expressed how important he and other members of the local government consider the intervention. They believe home management to be a big step forward in reducing the high prevalence of malaria in their communities. He also supported the role-model caregivers to carry out house to house visits and encouraged households to use their LLINs. Salisu also used this opportunity to highlight the benefits of home management of malaria.

Salisu believes the support to fight malaria should be given a bigger boost to break the cycle of transmission and decrease the mosquito population. This is very important to ensure a very healthy and productive nation.

*Cross Section of Participants at the Role Model caregivers training*

Salisu feels motivated by the support of his community and hopes to inspire others to become active promoters of health seeking behaviours