



## Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention Project Sokoto and Zamfara States

# Information *for* Traditional and Religious Leaders



*Community leaders talking to community members*

*Malaria is a major cause of illness and deaths in Nigeria. Children under 5 years are more vulnerable to the malaria. The government at all level in Nigeria are working with partners and the community leaders to prevent and control malaria. Sokoto&Zamfara States in collaboration with partners are implementing a new intervention to prevent malaria in children during the rainy season. The intervention is known as seasonal malaria chemoprevention (SMC).*

### **What is Seasonal malaria chemoprevention?**

Seasonal malaria chemoprevention (SMC) is an effective method to prevent malaria in children in the Sahel region where the peak of malaria transmission season is about four months. Sahel region includes Sokoto and Zamfara state along with other states in northern Nigeria.

SMC consists of administering a 3-day anti-malaria medication to children aged 3-59 months, for 4 times, at one month interval, during the rainy season.

*Protecting our Children From Malaria is the responsibility of all:  
Community Leaders, Play Your Part.*



## What are the benefits of SMC?

The SMC medicines help prevent malaria in children. Malaria is a serious disease that can kill children in just a few days; repeated attacks of malaria also impede the children's growth. Children who do not get sick with malaria have better health, and grow and develop stronger

In order to have the full benefits, SMC has to be complemented with other malaria prevention methods. Children should continue to especially sleeping under LLIN (treated Mosquito nets) every night, to ensure full protection.

## When and where the SMC project is being implemented?

In Sokoto state, the SMC intervention will cover 10 local government areas (LGAs) in 2015. The LGAs are as follows Gada, 2) Goronyo, 3) Gudu, 4) Gwadabawa, 5) Ilesa, 6) Isa, 7) Sabon Birnin, 8) Tangaza, 9) Wamakko, 10) Wurno

In Zamfara State the LGAs for the project are as follows 1) Bakura, 2) Brinin Magaji, 3) Bungudu, 4) Kauran Namoda, 5) Shinkafi, 6) Talata Mafara, 7) Zurmi.

## How often will the children have to take the drug?

The drug will be given monthly, over 4 months during the peak of rainy season. One full treatment of the SMC medicine for 3 days: on the first day, the child will be given the medicine on the spot by the role model care givers, and observed. The mother will receive the 2 other doses, and give to the child one dose

every day at home for the 2 following days.

Role Model Care Givers will pass house-to-house, others will be positioned at fixed locations to dispense the medicines.

Mothers and fathers are expected to bring their children, aged 3 months to 5 years old, to receive these drugs to help them avoid malaria during the rainy season.

## Role of Traditional and Religious Leaders

### As traditional or religious leader:

- Support Government, CBOs and Development Partners' effort to train and mobilize qualified manpower for SMC activities in your community
- Join other leaders to mobilize community members to provide additional support and conducive work environment to carry out the work of SMC in your community
- Inform local populations about the SMC campaign, the free distribution of the medicines, the distribution points services, and opportunities for better care.
- Act as a role model for SMC. Bring your children and encourage your community members to bring their children out to get the SMC medicine
- Hold community meetings to promote SMC
- Praise and thank volunteers for their help and commitment to support the health and growth of our children.

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