



Art Attack

Communities visualise malaria messages

As part of the artemisinin resistance Containment Project in Cambodia Malaria Consortium helped organise a drawing competition to encourage community involvement and awareness around the dangers of malaria



Health centre staff, village health volunteers (VHVs) and village malaria workers (VMWs) helped organise the competition. They found families and individuals from their communities that were interested in the competition. Participants were asked to draw any malaria related message they heard during the last six months, with the prizes going to the best during the World Malaria Day celebrations, organised by the National Centre for Parasitology, Entomology and Malaria Control (CNM).

Malaria Consortium helped the CNM to organise the competition to:

- ✓ Increase community awareness on the World Malaria Day
- ✓ Increase community involvement in the malaria related activities
- ✓ Reinforce key containment messages in the community.

The competition was very successful, generating lots of interest and enthusiasm in the community. Everyone was talking about malaria and seeking help from their family members, friends and neighbours to draw the best picture and win a prize.

The event created a ripple effect which helped both to spread and reinforce the malaria messages to the wider community.

Participants were given a week to complete their drawing, then the VHVs/VMWs collected the pictures to display at the final World Malaria Day events in each of the provinces.

At the events, community members were asked to vote for their favourite pictures - those which best portrayed correct and clear malaria messages. While voting, people naturally went through all the messages again, which helped to internalise them. Based on each community's selection, artists of the three best pictures in each province won prizes.

The illustrations overleaf are of some of the entries into the competition and were accompanied with the following messages:

1. The female anopheles mosquito transmits malaria
2. Fever, chills and body pain are the main signs and symptoms of malaria
3. The forest is the home of the mosquito
4. When you have fever, chills, pain and headache, you may have malaria. Go to the health centre for diagnosis and treatment
5. If you are a forest worker and sleep in the farm or forest, sleep under the bed-net to avoid mosquito bites and malaria
6. Always sleep under the impregnated bed net to avoid malaria

Photographs 7-10 were taken during the World Malaria Day activities in the provinces