



WAHO biweekly malaria news roundup: Top highlights on malaria in West Africa and around the Globe

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Nigeria to secure \$250m World Bank loan to tackle malaria

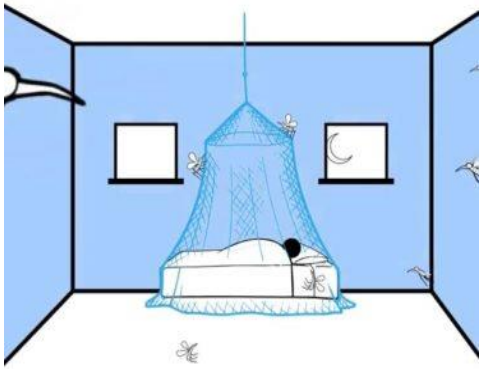


Malaria control in Nigeria is about to receive a boost as the federal government is in the process of securing a \$250m World Bank loan to fund malaria intervention in 13 states. This was made known by the National Coordinator, of the National Malaria Elimination Programme, Dr. Audu Bala Mohammed during the third annual summit of legislative network for universal health

coverage held in Abuja. He also noted that the Nigerian parliament had approved the proposal to secure the loan from the World Bank. The current malaria landscape in Nigeria shows the federal government's malaria intervention covers 24 states out of the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory. The Global Fund supports 13 states while the Presidents Malaria Initiative (PMI) covers 11 states. The proposed \$250m loan will be used to support the remaining 13 states.

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Promising results for bed nets treated with new chemical formulation



Increased resistance to pyrethroids the major chemical for insecticide treated mosquito nets has increased research for alternative chemical formulation for bed nets. Results from a recent trial in Uganda showed households who received bed nets with a combination of pyrethroids and the chemical piperonyl butoxide (PBO) experienced 27% fewer cases of malaria among children between 2 to 10 years. These households also had 80% fewer malaria-carrying mosquitoes. PBO chemical blocks a mechanism by which mosquitoes develop resistance to insecticides like pyrethroids.

Combining PBO and pyrethroids is gradually restoring the efficacy of pyrethroids. The approval of the World Health Organization is required before these super nets can be deployed.

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China's plan to expand malaria aid in Africa



China is planning to expand its malaria assistance in Africa in the next three years following a trial program in Tanzania and Sierra Leone that showed promising results. Zhou Xiaonong, head of Chinese National Institute of Parasitic Diseases stated that China's Center for Disease Control has invested a total of 15 million yuan (\$2.12 million) in initial research in certain parts of Tanzania and Sierra Leone in preparation for rolling out larger malaria

eradication programs in these two countries. China tested a program in Rufiji, a town in Eastern part of Tanzania with the aim of sharing the experience of how China strengthened capacity of local communities to fight malaria. Since the beginning of the program jointly implemented by China CDC, UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the government of Tanzania, the rate of malaria infections in the trial regions have reduced by 46% to as much as 80%.

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UN set to test mosquito sterilization technology globally



WHO in collaboration with Tropical Disease Research (TDR) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) have developed guidelines for global testing of Sterile Insect Technology (SIT) for Aedes mosquito. These guidelines will be used by countries who have indicated interest in testing the SIT. The SIT has been described as 'birth control

methods for insects' that sterilizes male mosquitoes. When large numbers of this sterile male mosquitoes are released, they will eventually out-compete with the other males in the wild and cause the female mosquito to be sterile with their eggs unable to hatch. This allows scientists to control the next generation. Experts noted that if this is done for long enough, the target population will be reduced and eliminated in some cases.

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New research shows association between BCG vaccination and reduced malaria prevalence in under-five children in sub Sharan Africa



Results of a new study published in the BMJ journal has established an association between BCG vaccination and reduced malaria prevalence in children under 5 years of age in sub-Saharan Africa. The protection from the parasite was highest in regions with suboptimal BCG coverage. These findings suggest timely BCG vaccination could play a role in protecting against malaria and contribute to eliminating the disease by reducing the reservoir. Additional research is required to further confirm these findings before its impact in reducing the global malaria burden is harnessed.

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