Spotlight on Nigeria: An in-depth look into Nigeria’s malaria prevention campaigns

Accounting for 25% of all global malaria cases and 24% of all malaria deaths in 2018, Nigeria bears the world's greatest malaria burden. However, with attention from the global health community, Africa's most populous nation has made remarkable progress towards eliminating the disease, with the country achieving the largest reduction of malaria deaths from 2010 to 2018 in sub-Saharan Africa.

Recent modelling data from Imperial College London now suggests that reducing malaria case management and delaying long-lasting insecticidal net (LLIN) distribution campaigns as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, could result in 81,000 additional deaths in Nigeria alone, making it more important than ever that the country achieves its target of 20 million nets distributed this year.

While the world battles with COVID-19, we invite you to join our discussion on how Nigeria has successfully implemented malaria prevention campaigns during the pandemic, and what challenges and opportunities lie ahead for one of Africa's most populous nations.

The RBM Partnership and AMMREN will host a full briefing on Nigeria tomorrow (25 August) at 16:00 CEST*.

Speakers:
- Dr Jibola Ojikutu, Medical Doctor at Ikorodu General Hospital, Nigeria
- John Dada, Programme Manager and Public Health Specialist, Nigeria, Malaria Consortium
- Professor Olugbenga Mokuolu, Malaria Technical Director, National Malaria Elimination Programme

Register for the session and submit your questions here.

*N14:00 GMT | 16:00 CAT | 15:00 WAT

Nigeria: from high burden to high impact

- Nigeria is one of the 10 highest-burdened countries in Africa, accounting for over 70% of global malaria cases and deaths, that are pioneering ‘High burden to high impact’ response.
- This country-led new approach to jump-start progress against malaria was launched in late 2018 by the RBM Partnership to End Malaria and World Health Organization (WHO).

“High burden to high impact” is founded upon the following pillars

- Strengthening country leadership and stepping up domestic financing.
- Relying on the best and shared data
- Empowering countries with better guidance, policies and strategies
- Improving effectiveness of partner support via a coordinated country
MENTOR: The need for greater vector control

- The MENTOR Initiative, an organization that specializes in integrated vector management (IVM) and emergency primary healthcare, has conducted assessments of Borno State, Nigeria. As a result, MENTOR are now planning indoor residual spray campaigns in Monguno, Borno, which will be conducted in 2021 in time for the next rainy season.

- MENTOR identified significant gaps in the existing humanitarian response, that, if addressed, would substantially reduce suffering and save lives from malaria, the largest cause of morbidity and mortality in the region.

State of malaria snapshot

- On August 13, WHO and Borno State Government delivered malaria prevention drugs to 42 internally displaced persons (IDP) camps in the troubled North-east state in Nigeria

- On August 7, Imperial College London published new research, which found that the distribution of life saving LLINs could help halve the number of deaths from malaria during the coronavirus outbreak in Africa

- On July 21, the Global Fund granted Nigeria an $890 million grant to reduce the burden of HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria over an implementation period of three years, beginning from 2021 to 2023

Resources:

- Imperial College London research of the potential impact of COVID in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Check the status of anti-malaria campaigns in your country with our country tracker
- WHO updated Q&A on hydroxychloroquine and artemisia
- RBM Partnership to End Malaria COVID-19 and malaria resource page
- Recordings of the RBM Partnership's recent media briefings on COVID-19
  - Amidst national shutdowns, countries mobilize to continue life-saving malaria campaigns
  - Malaria commodities: ensuring availability and affordability of life-saving tools
  - RTS,S vaccine: one year on

What's coming up?

24-28 August: WHO AFRO regional meeting

25 August: RBM Partnership media briefing on Nigeria's efforts to maintain malaria programmes throughout the COVID-19 pandemic

3-4 September: World Health Organization and RBM Partnership media briefing on malaria & COVID-19

17-30 September: 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly