Malaria IPC GUIDE
What is Malaria?
What is Malaria?

Malaria is a life-threatening parasitic disease

How is Malaria Caused?
Malaria is caused by plasmodium falciparum parasite transmitted through the bite of an infected female anopheles mosquito.

There are 4 different plasmodium species that affect humans:
1. Plasmodium falciparum
2. Plasmodium vivax
3. Plasmodium ovale
4. Plasmodium malariae

The most common in Nigeria is Plasmodium Falciparum.
Malaria-causing mosquitoes bite mostly at night, from the eveining and peak at night.
Malaria is preventable, treatable and curable.
Myths and Misconceptions
Myths and Misconceptions

Malaria is not caused by:

– Witchcraft
– Working under the sun/rain
– Eating too much oil
– Drinking palm wine/alcohol
– Stress

Ask community members if they know of other myths
Special groups at risk
Who is Most at risk of Malaria?

Everyone is at risk of malaria

Malaria is more serious in these groups of people:
– Children under 5
– Pregnant women
– People with low immunity (HIV-positive people and people with sickle cell anaemia)
– Immigrants/visitors from non-endemic areas
Symptoms of Malaria
Symptoms of uncomplicated malaria:

- Fever (hotness of the body)
- Vomiting
- Loss of appetite
- Weakness of the body
- Swollen/painful joints
- Headache
- Bitter taste in mouth

Ask community members if they know other symptoms

Symptoms of Severe Malaria (danger signs):

- Convulsion
- Paleness (anaemia, which can be detected by white palms, eyes)
- Inability to sit or stand
- Dark-coloured urine
- Inability to pass urine
- Breathing fast
- These symptoms indicate that the malaria has become very serious and the sick person must be taken to a health facility for treatment
Effects of Malaria
Effects of Malaria

Health consequences of Malaria
– Organ damage (brain, kidneys, liver)
– Life-threatening (death)
– Low birth weight
– Miscarriage in pregnancy

Economic Effects of Malaria
– Reduced productivity
– Increased expenditure on medicines
– School/work absenteeism
Malaria in Pregnancy
**Malaria in Pregnancy**

**What do you see**
Pregnant women with untreated malaria have a low birth weight baby.

**Dangers of Malaria in Pregnancy**

– Malaria is very serious in pregnant women.
– Malaria can affect the unborn child.
– Malaria can cause low birth weight, anaemia (Lack of blood), miscarriage and still birth.
– The malaria parasite can block the placenta, making the child in the womb not to get enough nutrients for growth and development.
Integrated Vector Management
Integrated Vector Management

What is Integrated Vector Management?

It is a way or reducing mosquito breeding sites (filling of pot holes, cleaning drainages and water holding containers) within the shortest possible time.

It reduces the population of mosquitoes to a minimal level so that transmission is no longer effective (IRS and Larviciding).

LLINs serve as a barrier between humans and mosquitoes to reduce mosquito bites.

The use of personal protective measure such as:

I. Wearing trousers and long sleeved shirts
II. Mosquito repellent creams
III. Insecticide sprays
IV. Screening windows
Long Lasting Insecticide-treated Net
Long Lasting Insecticide-treated Net

What can you see?
A happy family sleeping inside the LLIN.

What is LLIN
- Long Lasting Insecticide Treated Net is used as a barrier to prevent mosquito bite
- LLINs repels and kills mosquitoes
- LLINs are safe
- Sleep inside the LLIN every night
- LLINs can be used for between 3 – 4 years
- LLINs are treated from factory and require no re-treatment

How to use and care for your LLIN
- Air the net for 24hrs under the shade before first use
- LLIN can be hung over any sleeping area (mats, mattress)
- LLINs can withstand up to 20 washes in 4 years
- Wash your LLIN with mild soap when dirty
- Always keep your LLIN away from the sun
- Mend/sew the LLIN if torn
- If existing nets have used up to 4 years, you should replace them from pharmacy or clinic

How not to use LLIN
- LLINs should not be used as cover cloth or window blind.

Where LLINs in the household are not sufficient, children under 5 and pregnant women should be given priority and additional LLINs should be bought for other members of the household.
Effective Malaria Treatment

What do you see?

HOW DOES A CAREGIVER RECOGNIZE MALARIA IN A CHILD?

– Assess for fever by feeling body with back of hand
– Seeing that the child refuses food and is not playing around

WHAT ARE THE IMMEDIATE THINGS TO DO TO A CHILD WHOSE BODY IS HOT?

– Remove baby’s clothes, fan him/her, tepid sponge and give Paracetamol

Do you think this family is a happy one?
Is it malaria?

Make sure it is malaria.
Test before treatment
Is it malaria?

ACTs should be administered as soon as malaria is confirmed

What do you see?

- What are the different types of tests known for Malaria diagnosis?
  - Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDT)
  - Microscopy

What is RDT?

- Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDT) is a quick and easy way of detecting malaria in the blood.
- It takes about 15 – 20 minutes for the test to be ready.
- It compares favorably with microscopy
- Malaria is not the only cause of fever. Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDT) testing will help to reduce unnecessary wastage of malaria medicines.
- Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDT) testing prevents development of drug resistance.
- If test is positive, administer ACT immediately.
Malaria control
Malaria control
WHAT CAN YOU SEE AGAIN IN THIS PICTURE?
– After treating the child from malaria fever, the family failed to protect themselves by sleeping under long lasting insecticidal nets
– Mosquitoes continued to feast on them
They should have been more careful to protect the pregnant woman and the under five children from night biting mosquitoes which transmit malaria
ACTs most effective compared to older medicines like SP and CQ
ASIDE FROM BRINGING DOWN THE TEMPERATURE OF A CHILD, WHAT ELSE IS A CAREGIVER EXPECTED TO DO ON RECOGNITION OF FEVER IN CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS?

• Buy ACT malaria medicine from nearby chemist/drug store
• Ask audience to list types and brands of ACTs in the market
• Only purchase Acts that are Artemether + Lumefantrine (AL) or Artesunate + Amodiaquine (AA) combinations
• Crush first dose and sweeten with banana, honey or sugar. If child vomits within 30 minutes of taking a dose, repeat the dose and caregiver should buy another pack of ACT to ensure complete dose of ACT.
• Ensure 3 days dose of ACT is completed.
• Administer paracetamol for fever reduction
• Look out for Malaria danger signs such as difficulty in breathing, vomiting everything, unconsciousness, extreme weakness, inability to pass urine. If one or more danger sign appear, refer to hospital immediately.
• Do not administer drug on an empty stomach.

ACTs most effective compared to older medicines like SP and CQ
Management of severe malaria
Management of severe malaria

This family did not recognize and treat the child’s fever early enough – malaria became severe and danger signs appeared.

DANGER SIGNS:
- Convulsion
- Vomiting
- Breathing very fast
- Anemia (whiteness of the lower eyelids and palm and insufficient blood)
- Abdominal pains

When danger signs disappear, it means the child has severe malaria and MUST be treated in the nearest health facility.

IF CONVULSION OCCURS;
- Lie child flat on ground
- Quickly remove all tight clothing
- Insert wooden spatula (spoon) wrapped with a cloth into child’s mouth – depress tongue and prevent it from blocking air passage
- Clear crowd, remove all hard objects around and give child enough space to convulse.
- This child should be managed carefully and promptly to reduce risk of dying

DO NOT TREAT CHILD, TAKE CHILD TO NEAREST HEALTH FACILITY
DO NOT do any of the following:
- Increase clothing on child
- Give or mix concoction for patient
- Force-feed the child
- Cut child or burn hand/leg in fire

WHAT DO YOU SEE?
- Convulsing child is rushed to the hospital.

WHY DOES MALARIA BECOME SEVERE?
- When appropriate treatment is not taken immediately.
- When appropriate medicines are not used.

When danger signs appear in a child, it means the caregiver can no longer continue to manage the child at home. The child is at risk of dying.