

DRIVE AGAINST MALARIA

Alarming increase of malaria in coastal regions of south-western Cameroon.

Serious environment change have caused an enormous increase of malaria in the coastal regions of south-west Cameroon. This is the conclusion of a study by the WHO in cooperation with various universities in 2007.

From March 2008 Drive Against Malaria will concentrate on malaria prevention with the distribution of ten thousand long lasting insecticide treated mosquito nets in the low lying coastal areas of western Cameroon.



Malaria infections

Malaria transmission is the largest health threat in Cameroon and is still the cause of the highest mortality rate. Of the total number of all health admissions, 40% to 50% are diagnosis with malaria infections. Presently there are 900,000 clinical cases of malaria each year. And now, besides that, serious environment change have caused an enormous increase of malaria in the coastal regions of south-west Cameroon.

Malaria deaths

Babies and very young children are hardest hit with malaria, yet less than 1% sleep under an approved, impregnated mosquito net. 40% of malaria deaths are of children under the age of 5 years. Malaria causes up to 40% of all deaths in some hospitals. Cures of malaria depend on rapid and effective treatment with the right medication. Resistant to chloroquine is 67%. Therefore, treatment with Artemisenine Combination Therapy is strongly advised. In Cameroon malaria is responsibly for 26% of the total sick days lost and consumes 40% of the incomes per household.



Objective & target Group.

The target of the campaign is: ■The pushing back of malaria-related deaths of children under the age of 5 and pregnant women with the use of LLITN at the target group.

■Training, education for the benefit of the community. ■Health centers equipped with diagnosis kits, microscopes, RDK, and thermometers is essential.

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Studies have shown that malaria transmission in the coastal area is alarming high. In Tiko (1), Limbe (2) and Idenau (3), 1 person per year on average 287 (1), 160 (2) and 149 (3) becomes infected! ! 41.5% of the infections are found in children under the age of five years with Plasmodium Falciparum. This is the most deadly form of malaria where, if left untreated, the patient certainly lead to death.



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