



TV

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## MALARIA IN SIERRA LEONE

### VIDEO

CHILDREN'S WARD

MOTHER AND NETS

SICK CHILD WITH MOTHER

MARIE FORNAH ON CAMERA

CHILDREN WALK THROUGH  
DIRTY WATERWAY  
CU – DIRTY WATER

### AUDIO

#### NARRATION

Walk into any children's ward in Sierra Leone and you'll find a room full of anxious mothers watching their sickly sons and daughters struggling to survive. And more often than not, all the children will be battling the same deadly disease – malaria. (14)

Marie Fornah has already lost one child to malaria and now her youngest daughter, Rachel, has cerebral malaria – the most virulent strain of the killer disease – and is clinging on to life. (9.5)

MARIE FORNAH: (Dialect) **F**

*"It's a terrible disease. She's only been sick for two days and is already helpless. I'm very scared."* (6)

#### NARRATION

Stagnant water and untreated sewage are the perfect breeding ground for a host of serious illnesses – as well as for malaria-carrying

CHILD USES WATERWAY AS TOILET / CHILDREN PLAY	mosquitoes. While the disease is also rife in rural areas, years of war and neglect have turned the poorest urban districts into death traps – especially for children who regularly use the rubbish-choked streams as toilet, shower and playground. (21)
HOSPITAL / MOTHER AND BABY	The result – one of the world's highest mortality rates for children under five, mainly from preventable diseases – with malaria accounting for almost 40 percent of these deaths. (9.5)
MALARIA SIGN IN STREET	But there are signs that the situation is changing – and that greater emphasis is now being put on the prevention of malaria rather than simply concentrating on the cure. (7.5)
NURSE SHOWS MOSQUITO NET TO MOTHERS	Insecticide-treated bed nets have long been regarded as the first line of defence – since they drastically reduce the risk of contracting malaria. And while most communities have still not adopted the nets, an increasing number of families have been convinced to use them by a concerted educational campaign – and by the provision of free nets to pregnant women and children under five. (19.5)
NURSE HANDS OUT NET TO A MOTHER	Sponsored by UNICEF, the distribution of nets will gradually expand to every district in the country, supplying mosquito-proof shelter for tens of thousands of vulnerable women and children. (8.5)

MOTHER WITH BABY INSIDE NET With some families already benefiting from the bed nets...malaria rates are slowly starting to fall. Indeed, in some communities, the use of nets is now enforced by law...  
Says Margaret Kamara, a mother. (13)

MARGARET KAMARA: (Dialect) **F**

MARGARET KAMARA ON CAMERA *"We have been told that everyone must sleep under a bed net. They carry out spot checks from time to time. If anyone breaks this law, they will be summoned to the chief and fined. So everyone has a bed net and everyone uses it."*  
(15)

NARRATION

NURSES & MOTHER BY SICK CHILD'S BED Obviously bed nets are just part of the answer. They can reduce malaria but not eradicate it – especially in a poverty-stricken country like Sierra Leone, which cannot afford the vast sums needed to tackle the real dirty water sources of the disease. But more efficient diagnoses and more effective drugs – as well as enhanced access to treatment – are also starting to make a difference (20)

Dr. Samuel Smith is the Bombali District Medical Officer. (3)

DR. SAMUEL SMITH: (English) **M**

DR. SAMUEL SMITH, BOMBALI DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICER, ON CAMERA *"Fewer children are actually dying of malaria complications because people have access to health care and awareness is there and they actually report to health care facilities within the first 24 hours. So the deaths due to malaria are*

*decreasing according to our records.” (15)*

#### NARRATION

MOTHER COMFORTS SICK CHILD And so is survival for little Rachel, whose life is hanging by a thread. All her mother can do is comfort her and hope that she will not be the latest to die from this deadly – but preventable – disease. (10.5)

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by Richard Lee for the United Nations.