

Roll back malaria with emphasis on the promotion of insecticide-treated bed nets and household management of malaria by mothers



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



Fast Facts

Country: Nigeria

Duration: February 2003 to December 2004

Implementing UN Agencies: UNICEF

Other Implementing Partners: Federal Ministry of Health

Budget: \$991,052.15

Key Words: Access to health care; women; children

BACKGROUND

At the outset of this project, malaria emerged as one of the main threats to human security in Nigeria, with negative impact on public health and damaging consequences for entire communities. Malaria was the most common childhood disease, with official figures

attributing 20-30 per cent of infant mortality to malaria, killing about 798,000 children per year. At the same time, due to the significant reduction in immunity to malaria during pregnancy, malaria caused high rates of miscarriage and maternal deaths.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In line with the UNICEF Roll Back Malaria (RBM) initiative to implement malaria prevention and control measures in Nigeria, the project aimed to (i) increase access to affordable and high-quality ITNs and re-treatment kits, with emphasis on pregnant women and children under five (ii) train mothers in malaria prevention and in household management of ITNs;

and (iii) generate widespread demand for nets and insecticides through mass media, in particular radio. Moreover, by purchasing the ITNs and re-treatment kits from local manufacturers, the project aimed to support the expansion of local production and marketing of good quality ITNs and insecticides at affordable prices.

BENEFICIARIES

The project provided malaria protection to 625,000 pregnant women and children under five in four states in Nigeria (Enugu, Ogun, Bauchi and Kaduna). The project procured 130,000 ITNs and 400,000 insecticide kits for distribution at hospitals and health clinics, with the goal of ensuring that 25 per cent of the targeted women and children were sleeping under ITNs and that 60 per cent would use the provided re-

treatment kits regularly by the end of the project. Indirect beneficiaries included representatives from local Government administrations, community-based organizations and NGO's who were involved in implementing the project's activities, as well as private companies engaged in the sale and promotion of ITNs.