

Do You Know That Malaria Cases Are
High In Ghana, How About Govrenment
Commitmenst To Adressing It

What is malaria and how is it transmitted?

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alaria is an infectious disease caused by a parasite, <u>Plasmodium</u>, which infects red blood cells. It is transmitted from one person to another by the anopheles mosquito.

What are the signs and symptoms of malaria?

The symptoms characteristic of malaria include flu-like illness with fever, chills, muscle aches, and headache. Some patients develop nausea, vomiting, cough, and diarrhea. Cycles of chills, fever, and sweating that repeat every one, two, or three days are typical. There can sometimes be vomiting, diarrhea, coughing, and yellowing (jaundice) of the skin and whites of the eyes due to destruction of red blood cells and liver cells.

What is the malaria situation in Ghana now?

Malaria is hyperendermic in all parts of Ghana, with the entire population of about 23 million at risk.

According to the national Malaria Control programme, Malaria is the number one cause of sickness (morbidity) in Ghana accounting for about 38% of all outpatient illness, 36% of admissions, and 33% of all deaths of children under-five years.

UNICEF estimates that up to 20,000 under five die from malaria in Ghana each year.

What are Government's Commitments to solve the problem of malaria in Ghana?

As a result of the above situation, government has made the commitments to address the problem of malaria in Ghana through the following interventions:

Malaria prevention and Treatment

1. Insecticides Treated Nets (ITNs):

- Government said it wills distribute Insecticide Treated Mosquito nets free to people in communities especially pregnant women and children under-five: Have pregnant women and under-five children in your community received the ITNs?
- Government also said it was going sell the treated mosquito nets at reduced (subsidized) prices at government clinics or hospitals. Has this been done at your clinics or hospitals?



Apart from distributing the nets freely and selling them at reduced prices, government said it was going to sell the treated mosquito at full price in the market and in stores. Can you find the nets in your local markets or in a store in your community of district capital?

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2. Indoor Residual Spraying with insecticides.

What is indoor residual spraying?

This is the spraying of rooms with insecticides to kill mosquitoes. When rooms are sprayed, the chemical are deposited on the walls and roof of the building and the mosquitoes get killed when the settle on the walls or roof.

Have your rooms been sprayed with insecticides before?

3. Intermittent Preventive Treatment for pregnant women (IPTp).

Because malaria can easily kill a pregnant woman, government has put in place a measure to prevent pregnant women from getting malaria even if they get mosquito bites. As such, pregnant women are supposed to be given an anitimalaria drug (Sulphurdoxine Primitamine).

Each pregnant woman is required to take this drug three times before delivery (that's once every three months).

The pregnant women are also required to take the drug at the hospital or clinic in the presence of the nurse. This is to ensure that the pregnant women take all the dozes and at the right time.

- · Has the community been educated on this?
- · Does the community, especially the women know about this?
- Do you know any woman or women in this community who has taken this drug during pregnancy?

4. Diagnosis of malaria and treatment with Arteminisin-based combination therapy (ACT): Procure and distribute ACT treatments to health facilities.

- Malaria is the most common disease in Ghana and there are so many types of malaria drugs Ghana.
- Not all the drugs can however treat malaria very well. In view of this, government has recommended Atesunate Amodiquine as the best drug to treat malaria in Ghana.
- To ensure that ensure that this drug is available for treatment, government said it will buy it and distribute it to all government hospitals and clinics in Ghana. This is to ensure that all those who report sick at hospital and are diagnosed with malaria are treated with Atesunate Amodiquine.
- So, have people in this community been educated about this malaria drug?
- Is Atesunate Amodiquine the drug prescribed by your hospitals and clinics when people in your community report sick with malaria.
- · Has government made this drug available at your hospitals and clinics?



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CHILD MORTALITY IN GHANA, A BRIEF OVERVIEW

n Ghana, a lot of children especially the under-five children die due to malaria and minor illnesses. It is estimated that infant mortality represents 64% of all Under-five deaths while neonatal mortality constitutes about 30% in Ghana. The neonatal mortality rate for Ghana stands at 27 per 1,000 live births.

In its 2004 MDG report for Ghana, UNDP contends— that Ghana is unlikely to achieve MDG 4 (Reduce Child mortality by two-thirds by 2015) based on existing trends in infant mortality. A Unicef report (Progress for Children, 2007) also hints that Ghana is making "no progress" towards reducing child mortality.

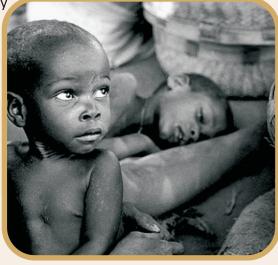
To achieve that goal, Ghana has to reduce Under-five mortality from over 11% of live births (in 2003) to at worst 4% by 2015. More importantly, the annual reduction in Under-five rate between 2007 and 2015 should be at least 12% in order to achieve the goal.

GOVERNMENT COMMITMENTS TO REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY IN GHANA

To prevent more children from dying, the government said it's going to carry out the following interventions in our communities:

Key Interventions to Reduce Child Mortality

- Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) (All children in every community, town and district are to be immunized against yellow fever, Polio etc
- · Prevention of tetanus in mother and baby.
- Vitamin A supplementation: All children in every district, town and community are to be given vitamin A tablets).
- Exclusive breastfeeding: Educate nursing mothers to feed their newborn babies only breast milk for the first six months).
- Complementary feeding: Provide complementary foods such as wean mix, Thombrown and yellow corn to feed malnourished children.
- Use of insecticide-treated bed nets: Promote use of insecticide treated nets in communities.
- · Treatment of malaria using ant malarial drugs (Artesuante Amodiquine).
- · Management of diarrhea using oral dehydration therapy (Teach nursing mothers how to administer ORS when their children get diarrhea.



· Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV: Test every pregnant woman and take measures to ensure that those who are positive do not pass on the disease to their unborn babies).

Are these things being done in your community?

- · Have the children in your community been given vitamin A tablets?
- · Have the women in your community been educated on Exclusive Breast Feeding?
- · Have the children your in community receive vaccinations or immunizations on polio, yellow fever and other childhood killer diseases?
- Do pregnant women and nursing mothers in your community sleep under insecticide treated nets?
- · Does your community or district hospital take measures to prevent mother-
- to-child transmission of HIV/AID?
- Do women in your community know how to administer ORS?



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GOVERNMENT COMMITMENTS TO REDUCING MATERNAL DEATH IN GHANA.

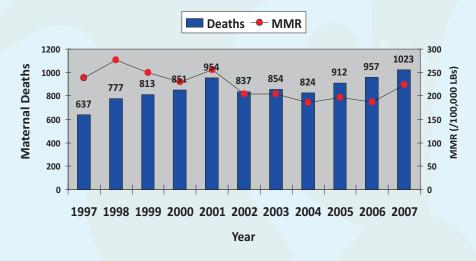
maternal death is the death of a woman while pregnant; during delivery; or up to 42 days of termination of pregnancy irrespective of the duration or site from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management.

The 2007 Maternal Health Survey recently estimates that for every 100,000 live births, 580 women die out of pregnancy-related complications.

It is also estimated that 84% of urban births are likely to be delivered at a health facility compared to 43 per cent in the rural area.

In April 2008, the health minister declared maternal mortality a National Emergency. Low skilled delivery, poor road networks, limited health facilities, poverty and socio-cultural factors continue to threaten the survival of women and children particularly the resource poor.

The following graph shows trends of maternal death from 1997 to 2007.



GOVERNMENT COMMITMENTS TO REDUCE MATERNAL MORTALITY IN GHANA

As part of measure being put in place by the government to reduce maternal deaths, government has committed it self to implementing the following interventions.

1. Advice on family Planning

- All men and women of reproductive age are to be given advice on family planning either at health centers of in the community).
- Family planning centers are to be established at health facilities where people can go for advice.



- Procure contraceptives such as pills, inject tableside and condoms and make the available at the family planning units for communities to benefit.
- 2. Free Antenatal and Post Natal Care Care at the Health Centre Level including prevention and treatment of iron.

<u>CARE DURING PREGNANCY</u>: includes Antenatal Care, Treatment of Severe anaemia, Treatment of syphilis, Treatment of other STDs such as gonorrhea, Chlamydia, and Treatment of malaria;

<u>CARE DURING AND AFTER DELIVERY</u>: includes Delivery by skilled birth attendant including routine newborn care, Management of eclampsia, Management of postpartum haemorrhage, Management of obstructed labour/Caesarean delivery Management of sepsis, Management of basic of newborn complications, Postpartum care Management of abortion complication, and Management of post surgical care;

- 3. Deficiency anaemia in pregnancy; clean delivery by skilled personal at all levels.
- 4. Antibiotics for Pre-term / Pre-labour rupture at clinical level
- 5. Improved Post Abortion Care.
- 6. Scaling up maternal deliveries conducted by skilled attendants by improving access to basic, comprehensive, essential and intensive obstetric care in all health facilities.
- 7. Strengthening maternal death audits
- 8. Sustaining high coverage of antenatal care while improving the quality of services through implementing focus antenatal care in all health facilities
- 9. Establishing confidential enquiry into maternal health audit
- 10. Scaling up family planning use to reduce the unmet need for contraception and increase overall access to family planning services.
- 11. The free Delivery Policy
- 12. The National Health Insurance.

Questions

- 1. Do you have family planning centers in your community, town or district?
- 2. Are pregnant women with STI's treated free of charge?
- 3. Do community health nurses come to educate men and women about family planning in your community?
- 4. Is delivery free at your health centers?
- 5. Do more women deliver at your health centers or hospitals?



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GOVERNMENT COMMITMENTS TO FIGHTING HIV/AIDS

What is HIV/AIDS

AIDS is a chronic, life-threatening condition caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (**HIV**). By damaging your immune system, **HIV** interferes with your body's ability to fight off viruses, bacteria and fungi that cause disease.

HIV makes you more susceptible to certain types of cancers and to infections your body would normally resist, such as pneumonia and meningitis. The virus and the infection itself are known as HIV. "Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)" is the name given to the later stages of an HIV infection.

HIV/AID is an infectious disease which can be transmitted from one person to the other though the following:

- · Unprotected sex with an infected person.
- · Blood transfusion of contaminated blood
- · Sharing sharp objects such as blade, needles, syringes.

The national **HIV** prevalence rate for 2007 was 1.9%, down from 2.2% the preceding year. While this compares favorably with many other African countries, risky behavior patterns persist. Thus the National **AIDS/STI** Control Programme warns that if unsafe behaviors continue, progress could still suffer a reversal.

GOVERNMENT COMMITMENTS TO REDUCING THE SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS

The following are the key interventions government pledged to undertake to reverse the spread of **HIV/AIDS** and other Sexual Transmitted Diseases.

- 1. Promotion of safe sex and condom use.
- 2. Promotion of VCTs
- 3. Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV
- 4. Treatment of HIV using Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy (HAART).

Questions

Are condoms available and affordable in your community?

Do you have VCT centers in your hospital or clinic? Do know if there readly available drugs to treat HIV positive persons?



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TUBERCLOSIS

What is tuberculosis?

Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease caused by bacteria whose scientific name is Mycobacterium tuberculosis.

A person can become infected with tuberculosis bacteria when he or she inhales minute particles of infected sputum from the air. The bacteria get into the air when someone who has a tuberculosis lung infection coughs, sneezes, shouts, or spits (which is common in some cultures). People who are nearby can then possibly breathe the bacteria into their lungs.

You don't get TB by just touching the clothes or shaking the hands of someone who is infected. Tuberculosis is spread (transmitted) primarily from person to person by breathing infected air during close contact.

Government Commitment to tackling the prevalence and death rates associated with TB and number of TB cases detected and cured.

Government has made commitments under the malaria control programme to get rid of TB in Ghana through the following interventions:

- Community Based TB care :To provide TB care and treatment to infected people at the community level through community volunteers.
 The volunteers are required to take the drugs to the infected persons in their various homes and ensure that they take the drugs in their presence.
- · Tackling TB in Prisons: Screen prisoners and treat all those infected with TB.



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