



AFRICARE'S MALARIA PREVENTION INITIATIVE IN NIGERIA

AFRICARE & EXXONMOBIL PREVENT MALARIA

Africare's **Malaria Prevention in MPN-Supplier Communities (MAPS-C) project** has served over 90,000 people in four local government areas in **Akwa Ibom** and **Rivers states** (Eket, Ibeno, Bonny, and Ogu/Bolo) in Nigeria from 2011 to 2018.

MAPS-C provides malaria prevention, diagnosis and treatment services for communities. The project emphasized children under five and pregnant women in households within ExxonMobil host communities. Africare's two-phase approach started with behavior change, capacity building, and close supervision of health care providers in order to address a number of challenges, including overtreatment by clinicians and unreliable rapid diagnostic test (RDT) results. Overtreatment, represented by treatment in the absence of a positive RDT result, was excessively high (97% of all patients presenting with febrile illness) at the onset of the project (2011).

From 2016 onwards, Africare collaborated with Fio Corporation to deploy the Fionet System™, including a malaria diagnostic tool, the Deki™ Reader, in Akwa Ibom State covering two of the four LGAs. The Deki™ Reader provided crucial information and support to health care workers, including clinical step-by-step guidance to conduct tests and real-time patient data. Deployment led to additional improvements in diagnoses and decision-making, and significant reductions in human error during rapid diagnostic testing. The Fionet System™ improved reliability, and importantly, the acceptability of RDT results, fostering greater confidence in patients and health care workers in the results. This meant treatment after patients test positive and as a result significant reduction in drug wastage.

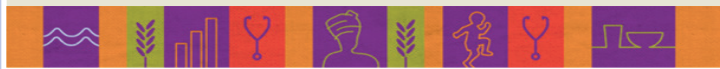
Initially, **Africare cut overtreatment by one third to 62% in 2015 in both states.** Following Fio-related deployments in **Akwa Ibom State, overtreatment fell to 2% in 2017** (See graph below right).



THE NEED:
97% of all Nigerians are at risk of Malaria, one in three report febrile illness in any given year, and **one in ten pregnant women likely to die from it.** Better surveillance and improved service and care delivery are of paramount importance.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- 1 Malaria prevalence **reduced by 50%** in target populations
- 2 **At least 80%** of children under 5 and pregnant women sleeping under long-lasting insecticide treated bednets (LLINs)
- 3 **At least 80%** of malaria cases treated at supported facilities are confirmed through laboratory and/or rapid diagnostic testing
- 4 **At least 80%** of fever/malaria cases receive appropriate advice and treatment through supported facilities
- 5 **At least 80%** of women receiving antenatal services, complete intermittent preventive treatment for malaria in pregnancy
- 6 **At least 80%** of target populations can identify mode of transmission, prevention measures, symptoms and appropriate treatment



Africare, the premier NGO committed to helping African people build sustainable, healthy and productive communities, just completed the six-year **Malaria Prevention in MPN-Supplier Communities (MAPS-C)** project implemented from 2011 through 2018. MAPS-C delivered significant improvements in malaria testing accuracy, efficient use of resources, and quality health service delivery **for more than 90,000 patients**, predominantly ExxonMobil vendors, children under five, and pregnant women.



Africare

Improving lives, Building futures

Reduction in Over Treatment with ACT

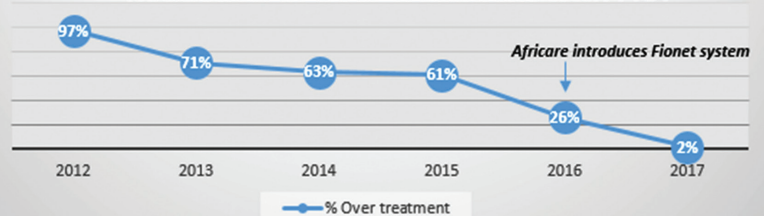
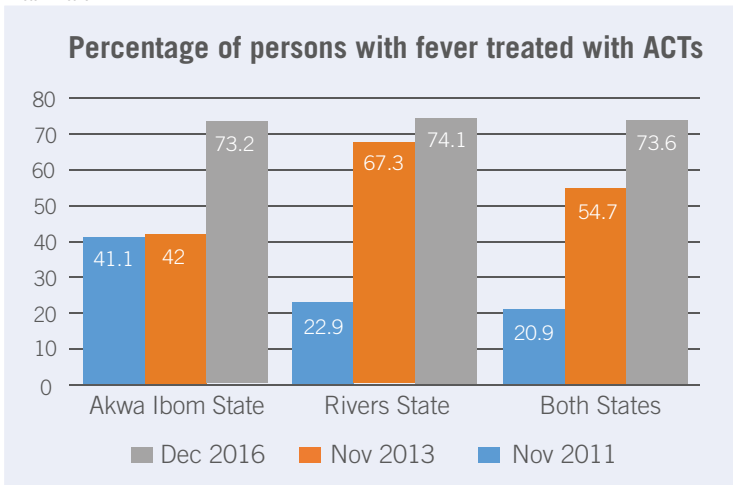




Photo: Africare



PROJECT SUCCESSES:

- 1** Three times the number of under-five children with malaria now receive proper treatment with Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy (ACT);
- 2** Health care workers demonstrate almost perfect adherence to diagnosis and treatment guidelines (100% in Akwa Ibom State, and 98% in Rivers State);
- 3** 23% more pregnant women now receive at least two doses of sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine (SP) for intermittent preventive treatment (IPTp) of the four recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO);
- 4** A drop in rapid diagnostic testing errors have gone from 8% to 0% in under 18 months, using innovative data and quality assurance technology by Fio Corporation;
- 5** Overtreatment reduced by a third through 2015, from 97% of patients presenting with fever to 64%; by 2018, this figure dropped to 2% in Akwa Ibom State;
- 6** A three-fold increase in persons at facilities in both states in program areas that now receive a diagnostic test before treatment; and,
- 7** Greater awareness and community knowledge as evidenced by results from our evaluation showing 87.3% know mosquito bites cause malaria.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION:

Quality Assurance of rapid diagnostic testing (RDT) as implemented by Africare and Fio Corporation, presents a unique opportunity to reliably determine the true prevalence of malaria in Nigeria and can lead to significant reduction in wastage of malaria commodities (ACT and RDTs), while ensuring reliable test results. Africare recommends continuation and eventual scale up of these efforts where possible.

ExxonMobil

“The Africare MAPS-C project has helped advance our goals of working with partners to provide malaria prevention therapies to communities in Nigeria and helping to improve health infrastructure,” said Kevin Murphy, president of ExxonMobil Foundation. “We were proud to support Africare in training health workers in electronic data capture and timely sharing of health information.”



Photo: Africare

“In our society every fever case is seen as malaria. When the Deki Reader was introduced I thought it was a waste but I have come to see that it very important. Before now it was possible to use malaria drug without positive test but now you have to be sure that it is positive before you treat, so it has helped to reduce wastage of drug. I want the Deki Reader to go round all the facilities in the state.”

-Mrs. Iniubong Umoh, Head of Service, Eket Local Government, Akwa Ibom State

About Africare

Africare is the premier Africa-focused non-governmental organization (NGO) working in partnership with African people to build sustainable, healthy and productive lives and communities, and to be a leading voice addressing African development and policy issues. Africare has provided over \$1 billion in support to over 36 African countries since it was established in 1970.



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