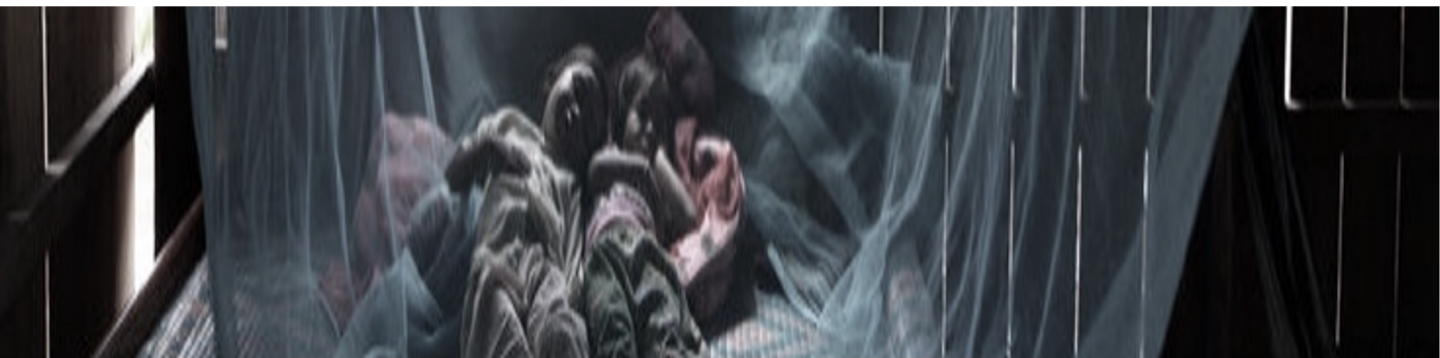


Bednet Utilization Survey: Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice

Problem

Malaria cases and deaths have continuously and significantly decreased, enabling the country's transition from malaria control to elimination, with only seven provinces reported having local transmission or reported indigenous cases. Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc (PSFI) will soon distribute 477,000 long-lasting insecticidal nets or LLINs to these areas and want to ascertain the high utilization rate of mosquito net use by the community recipients to sustain the gains in disease reduction and control.



Objective

As part of monitoring and evaluation, to help develop strategies for the National Malaria Control and Elimination Program (NMCEP) in addressing issues in the remaining provinces in the country where malaria is still transmitted.

Subjects of the Study



- Selected households (e.g., pregnant women and children below five years of age) come from 8 provinces, namely Cagayan, Tawi-Tawi, Davao del Norte, Sultan Kudarat, Palawan, Sulu, Maguindanao, and Occidental Mindoro.

Research Method



- Quantitative: Survey: guided/assisted interviews
- Qualitative: Ethnography

Results

- 92% of respondents reported using the insecticide-treated nets they received.
- Bednets are shared by the households, with 63.11% by two people and 36.89% by at least three individuals.
- 60% of the respondents correctly mentioned mosquito bites as the cause of malaria.
- Respondents knew malaria's symptoms, such as fever (82% of respondents), chills (55% of respondents), and headache (30%).
- 80% of respondents reported the correct care of mosquito nets, including washing and mending holes in the net.
- 61% of respondents said that fear is their primary reason to sleep under a mosquito net every night.
- Geographically isolated areas have less access to complete government services, including malaria control and elimination programs.
- Those with traditional livelihoods, such as clearing forests to plant crops and gathering forest products to sell or eat, have higher exposure to mosquito bites.
- Those who live in houses made of very light materials have lesser protection from the elements, as well as insects and mosquitoes.
- A hung mosquito net will not provide adequate protection where the floorboards have gaping spaces between them and mats are unavailable.
- The people in remote areas do not have protection from mosquito bites from when the Anopheles mosquitos come out to feed up to when the people go to sleep.
- Awareness about malaria as a potentially fatal disease is strong, and the perceived association between mosquitos and the disease is strong enough to motivate people to protect themselves and their families.



Recommendations

- Strengthen the relationship between the central government and remote communities in providing health services by working with indigenous healers (Baylans) and tribal leaders.
- Mobilize traditional healers (Baylans) for malaria interventions.
- Utilize people who have been sick of malaria and survived and the indigenous/local healers (Baylans) to be credible resource persons for malaria information.
- Explore the use of herbal medicine as natural mosquito repellants in remote areas.
- Consider the use of organic inputs in banana plantations and farms rather than using chemicals to avoid being prone to diseases.
- Provide vitamin supplements and immunizations, especially to children, as part of the health services.
- Look into the consistent use of bednets, access to sleeping mats, and the situation of the sleeping areas.
- Assess the sustainability of existing services, such as the availability of biomedicine, health center workforce and logistics, and accessibility of health facilities.