



## World Malaria Day 2024



Malaria is a parasitic fever native but not limited to the tropical regions of Sub-Saharan Africa due to the nature and habitat of its vector. It is caused by the bite of infected female *Anopheles* mosquitoes which are carriers of a parasite known as *Plasmodium falciparum* which is the deadliest species of malaria-causing Plasmodium. With over 200 million cases globally and 608,000 deaths [WHO, 2022], it is one of the top vector-borne diseases with a high mortality rate, even though it can be prevented and cured.

World Malaria Day is observed annually on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April on a global scale to eradicate malaria through campaigning and creating awareness on the cause and spread of the disease, prevention and cure. Global organisations like the World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations (UN) management and regulating authority for global health, play an important role in promoting awareness about the disease.

This year, the collaboration between WHO and the Roll Back Malaria (RBM) Partnership strengthened the theme "Accelerating the fight against malaria

for a more equitable world." This theme highlighted the importance of promoting gender equality, human rights, and health equity in the global fight against malaria.

In observance of this year's World Malaria Day, AYGf, in collaboration with the National Malaria Elimination Program (NMEP) and other development partners, launched several initiatives emphasizing the importance of malaria prevention across the nation, beginning with Abuja

## **Objectives**

The initiative aimed to contribute to the reduction of malaria prevalence in Nigeria. Specific objectives include:

- To increase the knowledge of the target audience/beneficiaries on malaria prevalence.
- To increase knowledge of the people on emerging trends in the fight against malaria.
- To provide services to target audiences and communities.

## **Activities/ Methodology**

AYGF marked the 2024 World Malaria Day with the following activities:

- Advocacy and sensitization programs were carried out in different places of worship.
- A community outreach to LEA school, Mpape.
- Press conference organized by AYGf to amplify the activities of AYGf and other development partners in the fight against malaria.
- Road show in collaboration with NMEP and other development partners. This featured placards and demonstrations which spoke to the aim of the initiative.
- Ministerial press briefing organized by NMEP in collaboration with other development partners
- Distribution of Insecticide treated nets [ITN] and free malaria testing to beneficiaries.

## **Outcome**

The activities and demonstrations carried out yielded the following results and outputs;

- 2 places of worship (church and mosque) were visited with sensitization messages on malaria.
- 500 Insecticide-treated nets distributed at the places of worship
- 200 community members offered malaria testing services
- 12 media houses amplified the AYGf WMD press release

## **Conclusion**

The 2024 World Malaria Day sensitization observed by AYGf was done in commemoration of the World Malaria Day (25<sup>th</sup> April) and featured a ministerial press briefing session, a road walk, sensitization of beneficiary community members, free malaria testing and administration of antimalarial and prophylactic medication by authorized healthcare personnel as well as distribution of Insecticide-treated nets, especially to pregnant women and mothers with children 0-23 months across the beneficiaries reached.



# Pictures













