



World Malaria Day 2023



Malaria remains a formidable global health challenge, particularly affecting regions with tropical climates such as Africa, where Nigeria bears a significant burden. In 2022, the World Health Organization reported an estimated 249 million cases of malaria worldwide, with 608,000 deaths attributed to the disease. Africa accounted for 94% of malaria cases and deaths, highlighting the region's vulnerability.

Although there has been a decline in the prevalence of malaria in the country, Nigeria still accounts for a high percentage of malaria cases globally. This data has necessitated the continuous campaign towards eradication of malaria in Nigeria.

World Malaria Day is observed annually on 25th April, to bring global attention to the efforts being made to bring an end to malaria and encourage action to reduce suffering and death from the disease. AYGf commemorated the 2023 World Malaria Day in two rural communities in the FCT.

Objective

The project aimed to reduce malaria prevalence in rural communities in Abuja. The specific objectives were:

- To increase awareness among rural residents about malaria prevalence.
- To provide malaria testing services to community members.
- To offer treatment to those who tested positive for malaria.

Methodology

AYGF marked the 2023 World Malaria Day with the following activities:

- Roadshow in collaboration with NMEP and other development partners.
- Ministerial press briefing organised by NMEP in collaboration with other development partners
- Community outreach to 2 rural communities in the FCT. The communities include Zhilu Village, AMAC, Abuja and Sa Lugbeyi Village, AMAC, Abuja.
- Distribution of insecticide-treated nets (ITN) to community members.
- Conducted Malaria Parasite tests to identify infected individuals and issue treatments.
- Distribution of prophylactics to individuals showing symptoms

Output

- 150 Long Lasting Insecticide Treated Nets were distributed to pregnant women and mothers with children 0-23 months across the 2 communities
- Over 200 community members across the 2 communities received information on malaria: causes, symptoms, prevention and treatment.
- 175 community members across the 2 communities were tested for malaria

- Antimalaria treatment was offered to 41 community members who tested positive to malaria.
- Chemoprophylaxis was offered to 36 community members who tested negative but showed signs of fever.

Conclusion

The 2023 World Malaria Day sensitization held by AYGf on April 25th was a remarkable event commemorating World Malaria Day. The activities included a ministerial press briefing, a road walk, and community sensitization efforts. Authorised healthcare personnel provided free malaria testing and administered antimalarial and prophylactic medication. Additionally, insecticide-treated nets were distributed, with a focus on pregnant women and mothers with children aged 0-23 months across the two communities. This comprehensive approach aimed to raise awareness, prevent malaria, and protect the most vulnerable populations.

Pictures





Cross-section of community members receiving ITN



Health talk on malaria to community members

