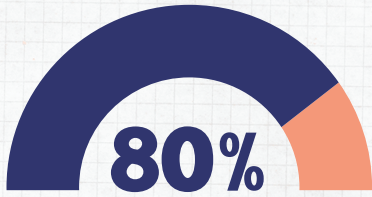




School as a Platform to Control Malaria

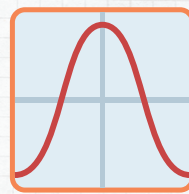
The case for cross-sectoral investment

Malaria is a serious illness for children, especially in Africa



Children make up 80% of deaths from malaria in the Africa region¹

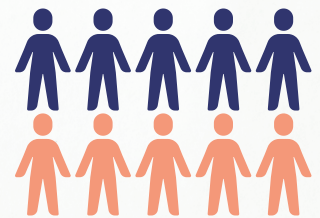
Peak Infection



The risk of infection peaks during school-age, making primary students a significant reservoir for continued disease transmission²

200 Million at Risk

Approximately 1 in 2 children in Africa, or 200 million children ages 5-14, are at risk of malaria³



42%

Least likely to use Bed Nets

Household surveys find that 38% - 42% of school-age children are unprotected⁴

Infections negatively affect school performance

Cognitive Effects



Complicated & uncomplicated episodes of malaria can adversely affect cognition²



Absenteeism

2% to 8% of absences are due to malaria. In Kenya, this represents 4-10 million days of school lost per year⁵

Targeting malaria interventions to school-age children is an effective way to prevent & control malaria

Malaria control campaigns improve students' attention in class, years of schooling completed, as well as the grades they achieve⁶





Role of Schools

Schools can deliver interventions to reduce malaria infection

1

Prior to transmission season

- Age-appropriate lessons on malaria transmission help students take up health promoting behaviors and recognize the clinical symptoms of malaria infection
- Schools can distribute bed nets annually to help protect students from mosquito bites

2

During periods of transmission

- Teachers can recognize students with signs of suspected malaria infection and quickly refer students to health facilities or community health workers for treatment

3

Year round activities

- Schools can engage health workers to ensure asymptomatic and symptomatic infections among students are being correctly tested and treated
- School surveys can be a useful tool to monitor malaria infection among students, frequency of sleeping under a bed net, and understanding of malaria education



DID YOU KNOW?

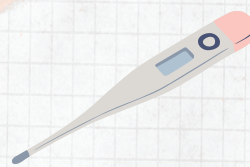
INTERVENTIONS THAT IMPROVE STUDENT HEALTH ALSO BENEFIT THE BROADER COMMUNITY THROUGH REDUCED TRANSMISSION AND INCREASED INCOME GENERATING OPPORTUNITIES

Both the education & health sectors have a role to play



Education Sector

- Provides access through the school platform to malaria prevention and control interventions
- Incorporates malaria education into the curriculum
- Ensures teachers are properly trained with malaria-specific knowledge



Health Sector

- Ensures the technical rigor of the malaria prevention and control messages
- Supports the distribution of bednets
- Establishes a process for testing and referral for treatment between schools and health facilities

Resources

- 1 WHO. Malaria Key Facts. Available from: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/malaria>
- 2 Brooker SJ, Clarke S, Fernando D, Gitonga CW, Nankabirwa J, Schellenberg D, et al. Malaria in Middle Childhood and Adolescence. In: Bundy DAP, de Silva N, Horton S, Jamison DT, Patton GC, editors. Disease Control Priorities, Third Edition (Volume 8): Child and Adolescent Health and Development. 3rd ed. Washington, DC: World Bank Group; 2017. p. 183–98.
- 3 Cohee L, Nankabirwa JJ, Greenwood B, Djimde A, Mathanga DP. 2021. Time for malaria control in school-age children. Lancet Child & Adolescent Health. 5(8), 537-538.
- 4 Noor AM, Kirui VC, Brooker SJ, Snow RW. The use of insecticide treated nets by age: implications for universal coverage in Africa. BMC Public Health. 2009;9(1):369.
- 5 Nankabirwa J, Brooker SJ, Clarke SE, et al. (2014). Malaria in school-age children in Africa: An increasingly important challenge. Trop Med Int Health; 19: 1294-309.
- 6 Kuecken M, Thuilliez J, and Valfort M-A. (2015). Does malaria control impact education? Evidence from Roll Back malaria in Africa. Les Notes du G-MonD. Paris School of Economics.

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