

Assessment of knowledge, malaria control practices, mining, sugarcane growing regions, of Western Kenya highlands

Abstract

Background: Despite upscaled control efforts, deaths and hospitalization due to malaria remained high in counties of western Kenya highlands.

Objectives: This study assessed the knowledge of malaria in two rural communities, the control strategies they use, and their capacity to integrate the available control programs.

Methods: A cross-sectional survey was carried out in two rural villages in November – December 2018. Focus group discussions and a questionnaire survey were carried out in 736 households. Frequencies and proportions were used for descriptive analysis while the Chi-square test was used to determine factors that were associated with knowledge of malaria at $p \leq 0.05$

Results: Ninety-seven percent of the respondents had knowledge of malaria and this was associated with the level of education attained ($\chi^2 = 30.108$; $p > 0.0001$). Bed net ownership was at 86% and 92% correctly identified its use. Draining stagnant water (53.9%) was the most cited environmental management practice.

Conclusion: There was awareness of the risk factors of malaria transmission in the study sites. The local communities must be mobilized and empowered through EIC for the control practises to bear fruit against malaria transmission. However, more sensitization needs to be done to optimize the use of malaria control practices.

Keywords: Malaria; control practices; Kenya highlands; Mining.

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