



Santé Education Habitat à Ouagadougou

Ouaga Focus

N° 13
Juin 2002

Une initiative visant à développer des services sociaux plus équitables

Unité d'Enseignement et de Recherche en Démographie
Population Council - Save the Children Pays Bas - Mwangaza Action - Institut de Recherche en Développement

AN URBAN ANTI-MALARIA INTERVENTION

The notes 11-12 presented current knowledge on malaria in Burkina Faso and Ouagadougou and interventions that work in the rural setting. These interventions promote the use of insecticide treated bednets and curtains and home management of malaria with pre-packaged chloroquine. Strategies still need to be tested in the urban setting, where social dynamics are more complex and living conditions more heterogeneous than in rural areas.

Adapting rural malaria interventions to the urban setting

The Ouagadougou Urban Health and Equity Initiative aims to document the efficacy, effectiveness, practicality and affordability of social marketing / community-based malaria interventions and thus mobilize the will to roll back malaria in cities like Ouagadougou.

These malaria interventions will include:

- Social marketing of insecticide treated bednets and curtains;
- Social marketing of pre-packaged chloroquine; and
- Community-based IEC and community mobilisation to promote improved home management of malaria.

For this urban malaria effort, the Initiative will be partnering with the Centre National de Recherche et de Formation sur le Paludisme (CNRFP) and with the Regional Directorate of Health (Direction Regionale de la Santé -- DRS) of the Ministry of Health of Ouagadougou.

An urban malaria trial covering a population of 50,000

A proposal has been developed for a randomised trial in 32 census enumeration zones¹ of Ouagadougou comparing the under-five mortality in communities after introduction of the malaria interventions with the under-five mortality in communities before the introduction of the interventions. By the end of the fifth year, the trial will have an 80% power to detect a 20% reduction in all-cause under-five mortality at the 5 per cent level of significance.

The evaluation will rigorously assess the impact, affordability, reproducibility and equity of this dual intervention. As the trial will be conducted under close to "real world" urban conditions it will not be possible to assure ideal implementation of the interventions throughout the intervention zones. Hence the need to pair a preventive intervention with an intervention to improve home case management of malaria in order to assure major impact on child mortality.

Formative research to design appropriate interventions

A leading purpose of the initiative is to support the development, by officials of the Regional Department of Health, of a comprehensive strategy for urban malaria control. To support the design of the interventions as well as this comprehensive urban malaria strategy the initiative will have various formative research objectives:

1. Mapping of malaria transmission in Ouagadougou.
2. Characterization of current practices for the prevention of malaria.
3. Characterization of current practices for home management and care seeking
4. Monitoring of the quality of chloroquine available from various sources.
5. Characterisation of the quality of case management for malaria currently offered by various public sector and private providers.
6. Assessment of the affordability, practicality and equity of the two interventions.

Such information is also essential for advocacy and community mobilization for urban health equity. Some baseline findings on current practices for prevention and home management of malaria are discussed in separate notes on health seeking behaviour and on current practices for prevention and home care of malaria in Ouagadougou. The Ouagadougou Urban Health and Equity Initiative is currently funded by the Rockefeller and Mellon Foundations and is a member of the Global Equity Gauge Alliance (GEGA).

Bob Pond
UERD

inibob@fasonet.bf

¹ Approximately 300 households and 1,500 people live in a census zone.