

The Government of Nigeria, with support from partners, is striving to reduce the number of cases and deaths from malaria. In Cross River State, the under-five mortality rate is 176 per 1,000 births and the infant mortality rate is not much better at 120 per 1,000 births. These grim statistics place Cross River among those states with the highest number of child deaths in the country.

As part of the strategy to prevent malaria in early 2011, the Cross River State Government, Malaria Action Program in States (MAPS) and other malaria partners supported the distribution of LLINs (long-lasting insecticidal nets) in ten of the 18 local government areas in Cross River through a mass door-to-door distribution campaign.

**Success Story**

My net is my life

**Long-lasting insecticidal
nets save lives and money
in Cross River State**

Among those who benefited was Mrs Mary Affiong, who has been consistently using the nets since then. She has also received nets during antenatal clinic visits and in the expanded program on immunization clinic when her children completed their immunization. This was made possible due to MAPS' technical and funding support to establish a routine LLIN distribution system through facilities.

“The net saves me money I might have needed to treat malaria.”



More money for the family

Mrs Affiong says that since she first received one, both she and her children have slept inside the net. And now, she says she can't remember the last time she or her children visited the hospital for malaria treatment. In her words:

“I don't remember the last time me or my children went to hospital for malaria except for small things like immunization. Now only my husband complains about malaria and I tell him, ‘You can't say that because you don't sleep inside the net’.”

Because she doesn't have to worry about malaria, Mrs Affiong explains that money that could have been spent in treating herself or her children is used for better things in the home. She also says that she collects nets from people who say they don't like to use them because they feel too hot. **“I collect from them because after some time I know we won't get them for free, they'll begin to sell them. But by that time me I won't have to buy any because I'll have enough for myself and my family.”**

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Cooperative Agreement Holder:



Implementing Partners:



Supporting:



MAPS is funded by the USAID through the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), implemented in nine states (Benue, Cross River, Ebonyi, Kogi, Nasarawa, Oyo, Kebbi, Akwa Ibom and Zamfara) across Nigeria between 2010 and 2016. FHI 360 is collaborating with Health Partners International and Malaria Consortium to support the implementation of the National Malaria Strategic Plans (2014–2020).