

Exploring Success Stories in Sierra Leone. MDG 6 – Combat Diseases



What John found about combating diseases:



Malaria is spread through mosquitos carrying the malaria parasite and is transmitted when mosquitos bite humans. Malaria makes people very ill and can cause people to die. In the hospitals John visited he was told malaria was one of the main reasons for children being brought to hospital, particularly during the rainy season.

The two main strategies for reducing infections and deaths from malaria are:

- providing insecticide (a chemical that repels mosquitos) treated nets for people to sleep under (mosquitos mostly come out at night)
- providing medicine to treat those who've caught the disease

Children under five with malaria benefit from free health care. The number of people sleeping under nets has risen from 5% in 2005 to 26% in 2008.

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BEFORE

- Why were so many people in Sierra Leone becoming infected with malaria before 2005?
- Before free child health care, would the number of children being treated for malaria have been more or less? Why?

AFTER

- Why do you think is it important to sleep under nets in places where malaria is a problem?
- In the future, do you think the number of people dying from malaria will rise or fall in Sierra Leone? Why?
- What differences could this make for Sierra Leone?