

## INSECTICIDE TREATED NETS CONTRIBUTES SIGNIFICANTLY TO REDUCTION OF MALARIA IN KENYA



*Acting Director of Medical Services Dr. Jackson Kioko(left) and Dr. Tina Jones,(right) The Deputy Head of Mission of USAID Kenya give their presentations during the briefing.*



In a media breakfast meeting this morning ahead of World Malaria Day to be celebrated on 25th April, the government and donors reiterated the significance of insecticide treated nets in reducing Malaria Prevalence in Kenya which currently stands at 8%. Dr. Tina Jones, the Deputy Head of Mission of USAID Kenya noted that one of the greatest tools to fight Malaria are treated mosquito nets especially in child survival. USAID contributes 35 million dollars annually to Kenya through the Presidential Malaria Initiative (PMI) to fight Malaria. PS Kenya supports the distribution of nets funded by PMI to malaria endemic and epidemic prone areas which are given to pregnant mothers and mothers with children under 1 year of age.

Reiterating the importance of nets, WHO Country Representative Custodia Mandlhate said that reducing Malaria significantly contributes to several of the recently launched UN Sustainable Goals. "We have seen that smart investments and strong partnerships have assisted to bring down Malaria prevalence. It is because of the partnerships we have with USAID and UKAID that we have seen success in this project and I urge us all to continue working together until we end malaria for good," she added.



*WHO Country Representative Custodia Mandlhate speaks to the audience at the World Malaria Day Breakfast Meeting.*



*Head, Division of Communicable Disease Prevention and Control, Ministry of Health, Dr. Joseph Sitienei addresses the audience*

Speaking on behalf of the Ministry of Health's Cabinet Secretary, the Acting Director of Medical Services Dr. Jackson Kioko said that 12.6 million treated mosquito nets were distributed in Kenya in 2015. He noted that strategic and sound policies in health, together with partnerships from donors and other partners have helped reduce Malaria prevalence in Kenya. "However, we urge residents of Kenya who have benefitted from these nets to use the nets for their intended purpose, which is to protect from Malaria during all seasons," he said..

Studies from KMIS (Kenya Malaria Indicator Survey) and DHS (Demographic Health Survey) indicate that ownership and use of ITNs have increased and that the use of LLINs has proved to be a main tool in the fight against Malaria. "We thank UKAID and USAID for assisting us in providing the nets which we distribute through routine net and mass net distribution cycles," said Dr. Ejersa Waqo who heads the National Malaria Control Program.

In 2015, PS Kenya distributed 3.8 million nets funded by USAID through the mass net program and annually distributes 2.2 million nets funded both by USAID and UKAID through routine net distribution to mothers and infants