

# **Fighting Malaria**

A Community-Based Needs  
Assessment in Ghana

# University of Louisville SPHIS

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# Ghana, West Africa

- **KONG:** Sissala East section of the Upper West Region of Ghana



# Needs Assessment Objective

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- Assess the beliefs, behaviors, and perceived barriers of community members in the Sissala East district regarding prevention and treatment of Malaria.

# Learning Objectives

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- Identify facilitating factors and challenges for effective malaria prevention in the Kong community.
- Discuss implications that community input has on PSE changes.

# The Kong Community

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- Comprised of four sub-communities
  - Hulommale, Balolo, Manabale, and Dangele
  - 2009 pop.-1532
  - 2010 pop.-1547

Source: University for Development Studies (2009). A community profile, problems and potential of Kong Community in the Sissala East District of the Upper West Region.

# The Kong Community

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- 52% female
- 49% under age 18
- Religious affiliation: 96% Muslim, 3.5% Christian, and .5% Traditionalist.

Source: University for Development Studies (2009). A community profile, problems and potential of Kong Community in the Sissala East District of the Upper West Region.

# The Kong Community

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- **NO** healthcare providers in Kong
- Closest hospital: Tumu (6 km)
- Three traditional birth attendants and five traditional healers

Source: University for Development Studies (2009). A community profile, problems and potential of Kong Community in the Sissala East District of the Upper West Region.



# Methodology

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- Data collection:
  - Surveys
  - Interviews
  - Photovoice

# Methodology

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- Pilot tested survey questions
- Survey questions and photovoice methodology were reviewed by UDS students prior to implementation
- Four to five groups comprised of U of L and UDS students surveyed/interviewed community members

# Methodology

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- Convenience sample of community members
- Thirty nine adult surveys and 23 child surveys collected over a 3 day period (May 31-June 2 2010)

# Methodology

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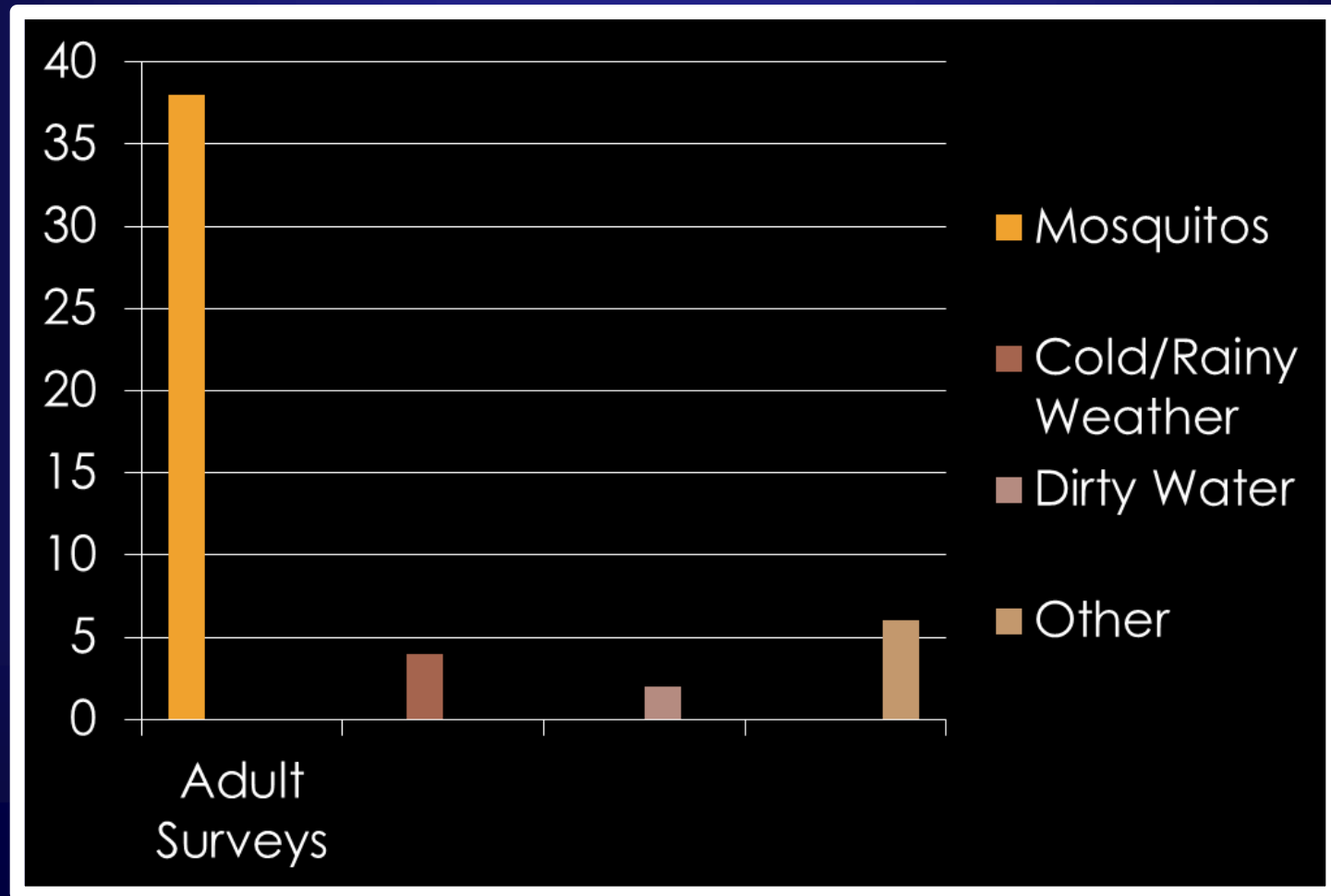
- Four photovoice participants
- Key informant interviews
  - 8 UDS students
  - 1 Traditional Healer
  - 1 Traditional Birth Attendant

# Methodology

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- Formal community entry
- Community members and UDS students served as interpreters when necessary
- All four areas of community surveyed

# How Do You Get Malaria?



# Bar Graph Text Description

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Reading left to right, horizontally across columns:

- Mosquitos = 37
- Cold/rainy weather = 3
- Dirty water = 2
- Other = 6

# How Do You Get Malaria?

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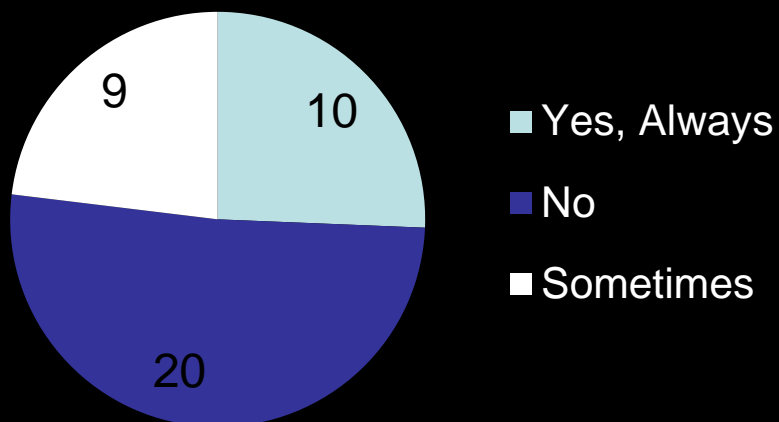
Other answers from adult survey

- Severe sunshine (5)
- Hard work (3)
- Unclean environment (1)
- Bad food (1)

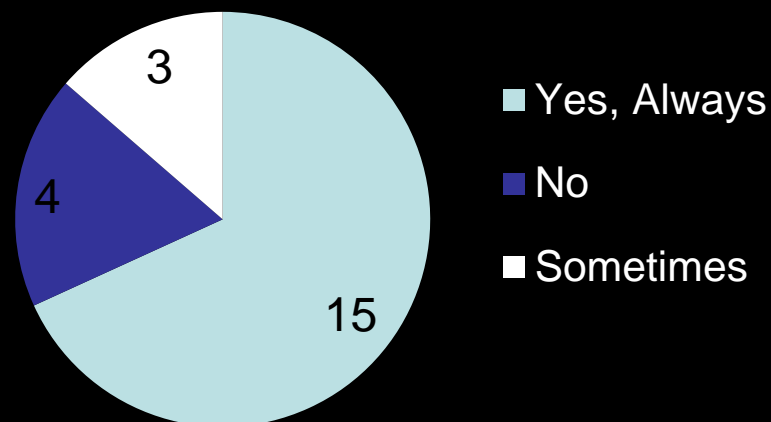


# How Do You Protect Yourself from Malaria?

Do you sleep under a bed net at night? (Adult)



Do you sleep under a bed net at night? (Child)



# Barriers to Bed Net Use

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- Can't afford it (16)
- No access to bed nets (4)
- Don't like to use or "Feels hot"

# Malaria Frequency in Last 3 Months

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Adults (of 39):

16 – none

7 – 1 time

16 – >1 time

Children (of 23):

10 – none

9 – 1 time

4 – >1 time

# Photovoice Component

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- Photographs taken by community members
- Capture representation of personal experience with malaria



**Problem:** “Stagnant water collected from a borehole serves as breeding place for mosquitoes.”

**Proposed Solution:** “Pour oil in the hole.” and “Use the chief as an avenue for community involvement and adherence.”



**Problem:** “Shea nuts are brought from the farm to the community. When placed for about 2 to 3 days, it is observed to be full of mosquitoes.”

**Proposed Solution:** “People’s sleeping quarters should be separate from shea nuts.” and “A place should be organized for housing of the shea nuts.”



**Problem:** “The collection of animal feces, urine, and water lead to the breeding of mosquitoes.”

**Proposed Solution:** “Keep the area clean of elements that attract mosquitoes.”

# Main Ideas from Photovoice

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- Community members are aware of ideal conditions conducive to mosquito attraction and breeding
  - Stagnant water
  - Storage of shea nuts
  - Unclean environments



# Main Ideas from Photovoice

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- Environmental and behavioral interventions should be introduced in order to combat mosquito infestation
- The chief's authority should be utilized in order to increase shared communal responsibility of interventions

# Main Ideas from Key Informant Interviews

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- Malaria decreases productivity, income generation, and food security
- Malaria hinders development of the community
- Still a need for further education in the prevention and treatment of malaria

# Main Ideas from Key Informant Interviews

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- Community members clean immediate surroundings to prevent mosquito infestation
- Herbs often used in the treatment of malaria
- Bed nets are used in some homes in the community

# Strengths and Limitations

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## Strengths

- UDS students were liaisons to community
- Mixed methods approach enriched understanding of needs

## Limitations

- Limited time frame
- Small sample size
- Language barriers

# A Special Thanks to Our Ghanaian Friends

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- University for Development Studies
- Kong Community of Sissala East
- UDS students
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  - Amidu Yatasu Maltiti
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  - Appiah Amponsah Isaac
  - Ampomah Frederick
  - Appiah Emmanuel Yeboah
  - Appiah-Amponsah Raymond
  - Amewor Emmanuel

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