

Quality control of mosquito insecticide treated nets as a preventive measure

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Nigeria has adopted the quality control of mosquito insecticide treated nets (ITNs) as a measure to prevent the incidence of malaria in the country. Since 2002, the National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC) has incorporated into their programme, the monitoring and regulation of the manufacturing, importation and sales of ITNs. This monitoring and regulation was adopted after various surveys, and research of samples sold in the market¹. It was found that 60% of the ITNs sold in the market have no insecticidal effect on the mosquito. About 80% of the bednets are substandard and are not treated with the insecticide. These substandard ITNs do not last long and develop holes which allow entry of mosquitoes. The World Health Organization Pesticides Evaluation Scheme (WHOPES) has approved six insecticide products for net treatment, which have been endorsed for use by Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) in Nigeria² (Table 1). All approved ITNs have been registered with the Government Regulatory Authority. The regulatory agencies responsible are NAFDAC, and Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON). The control and regulation of ITNs have been supported by United States Agency for International Development (USAID), United Nations International Childrens Emergency Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO), Department for International

Development (DFID) and the State Malaria Programme in the country².

Implementation strategy: NAFDAC and SON, in 2002 embarked on a massive campaign against fake, substandard and counterfeit ITNs and net re-treatment kits. The companies that market substandard and low quality ITNs have been closed down after various efficacy testing and identification. The bednets without approved registration number had been destroyed and burnt to avoid further circulation.

Table 1. Approved insecticide treated nets and re-treatment kits in Nigeria

Product	Supplier
K-O net	CHI Ltd, Nigeria
K-O tab	
Solfac net	CHI Ltd, Nigeria
Solfac treatment kit	
Iconet	Sygenta Nigeria Ltd
Iconet treatment kit	
AI-Cybernet	Harvestfield Industries Ltd, Nigeria
AI-Cybernet treatment kit	
PowerNet	Sunflag Ltd, Nigeria
PowerNet treatment kit	
PermaNet	Dangote Holdings Ltd, Nigeria

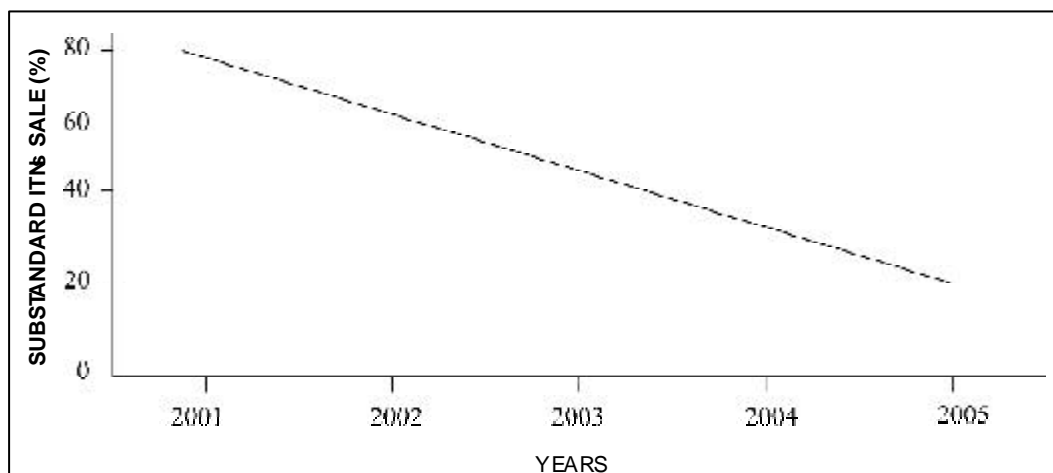


Fig. 1: The per cent sales of substandard ITNs from year 2001–2005

Many fake net products imported have been ceased at airport and the seaport. As a result the sale of substandard ITNs has brought down from 2001 to 2005 (Fig. 1).

The role of non-governmental organisations: The participation of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and community based organisations (CBOs) in promoting the use of quality ITNs has helped a lot in the Roll Back Malaria (RBM) initiative. Most programmes of the NGOs working in the area of malaria control focus more on the use of approved ITNs in the country. The National Malaria Control Programme of the Department of Public Health, Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) has advised NGOs and CBOs to increase their coverage at the grass root level and bring about behavioural change in the community through communication¹. Public awareness campaign has been carried out in schools, hospitals and markets¹. Most CBOs have taken the responsibility to distribute the standard nets free in Community Health Centres. Some rural women, that

attend anti-natal and post-natal care have benefited from the project.

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