Assessing the impact of malaria and malaria control interventions on the welfare of the population on Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea.

Guillermo Garcia, Wonder Philip Phiri, John Bradley, Jackie Cook, Immo Kleinschmidt, Julie Niemczura de Carvalho, Edward Aldrich, Christopher Schwabe

The Bioko Island Malaria Control Project (BIMCP) has conducted intensive malaria control interventions on Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea since 2005. The BIMCP has had significant success in reducing *P. Falciparum* parasite prevalence in 2-14 year olds from 45% (95% CI 40%-50%) in 2004 (baseline) to 12.1% (95% CI: 11.2%-13.3%) in 2016 based on annual Malaria Indicator Survey (MIS) data. During MIS surveys, the BIMCP assessed, every 5 years, the impact of malaria and malaria control interventions on the welfare of the island’s population and its effect on the poor, as measured by socio-economic status (SES) indicators. Most often, SES is calculated as a proxy using principal components assessment (PCA) which enables ranking of surveyed households. However, using PCA to measure SES provides several limitations such as: the inability to measure the absolute level of poverty in a community or changes in poverty level over time (20% of houses always remain the poorest without any knowledge of how vulnerable they are). Inter-country and inter-temporal analysis is only possible if SES indices are derived from the same asset combination (which may depend on context). Data on expenditure and savings questions on a subset of households from 2004, 2009, and 2013 MIS are used to estimate income as a measure of household welfare, and used to rank the households into deciles. This study will examine self-reported incidence of malaria and prevalence of infection across welfare groups, and establish whether the malaria control interventions have an effect on health improvement, as well as welfare-enhancing (pro-poor), on the population of Bioko Island in Equatorial Guinea.