

SOCIAL GOOD

NEWSLETTER



KDBS Hosts 2023–2024 Report Dissemination Palooza

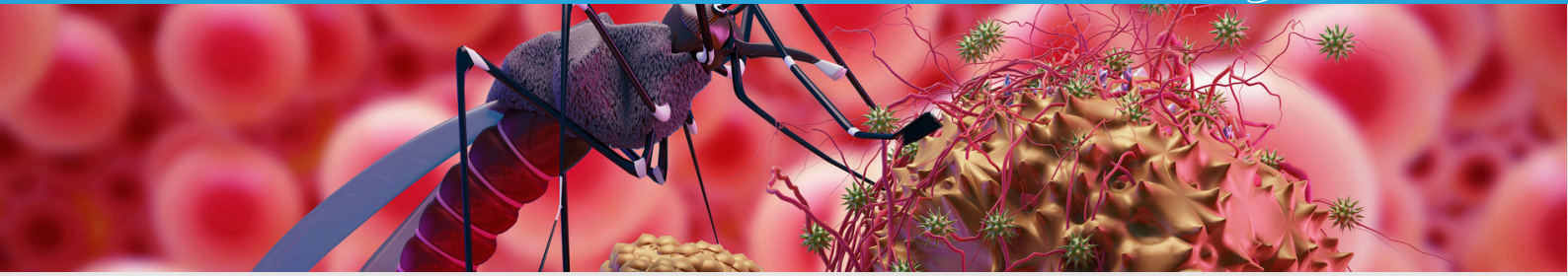
The event's highlight was the release of critical reports, such as the Financial Inclusion Report 2023, Annual School Census 2023/2024, SDGs Watch, Population Dynamics Study, and the Consumer Price Index (CPI) Report. These reports provide valuable insights into the state's progress in financial inclusion, education access, demographic shifts, and inflation trends, offering a roadmap for evidence-based policy-making and targeted interventions.

- **Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (OSGF) Launches the Nigerian National Volunteer Database and National Policy on Inclusive Volunteerism.**



In partnership with Natview, the OSGF has created a dynamic digital platform and inclusive policy framework that positions volunteerism at the heart of the nation's sustainable development agenda. Through the National Volunteer Database, Nigerians will have streamlined access to volunteer opportunities that align with the country's goals of socio-economic growth, environmental sustainability, and social solidarity.

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www.natviewfoundation.org



Can Egypt's Century-Old Journey to Malaria Eradication Serve as a Model for Nigeria?

By *Olubunmi Olorunpomi*

Just 3,000 kilometers away from Nigeria lies Egypt, a nation that has recently achieved an important public health milestone by being certified malaria-free by the World Health Organization (WHO). This monumental achievement is the culmination of nearly a century of dedicated efforts from the Egyptian government and its citizens to eliminate a disease that has plagued the country since ancient times.

In 2022, Nigeria reported an alarming 23.1 million malaria cases, the second highest number in Africa. In contrast to Egypt's progress, Nigerian healthcare facilities, particularly primary healthcare centers (PHCs), are overwhelmed, with many visits driven by the need for malaria treatment. The recently released Kaduna State Citizen Perception Survey on Primary Healthcare Facilities, conducted by the Kaduna State Bureau of Statistics in partnership with the Kaduna State Contributory Health Management Authority (KADCHMA), revealed that malaria treatment ranks as the number one service provided at PHCs. This urgent scenario raises the question: Can Nigeria ever achieve a malaria-free status like Egypt?

The eradication of malaria in Egypt did not happen overnight. It required a long-term commitment by both the government and the citizens. The century-long initiatives included the prohibition of certain agricultural practices, widespread surveillance, and community engagement. The journey began in the 1920s, when Egypt designated malaria a notifiable disease and established its first malaria control station focused on diagnosis and treatment. With the introduction of effective vector control measures and public health education, Egypt successfully reduced malaria prevalence over the decades.

In Nigeria, both federal and state governments have made strides in addressing malaria. The National Malaria Elimination Program (NMEP) was designed to lower the number of people who get malaria and die from it. It does this in a number of ways, such as by giving out insecticide-treated nets (ITNs), indoor residual spraying (IRS), rapid diagnostic tests, and artemisinin-based combination therapies. In Kaduna State, programs like the Support for National Malaria Program (SuNMaP) have contributed to malaria control using cost-effective, evidence-based interventions that have a strong level of state ownership and buy-in from key stakeholders.

Despite these efforts, Nigeria faces significant challenges in eradicating malaria, particularly due to its distinct climate, which supports year-round breeding of the *Anopheles* mosquito. Unlike Egypt, which has seen success in controlling mosquito populations through targeted interventions, Nigeria's diverse ecosystems and environmental conditions necessitate a more pragmatic and innovative approach. To move closer to malaria elimination, Nigeria must adopt a multifaceted strategy that combines traditional public health measures with innovative solutions. Whatever it will take, now is the moment for us to join forces and take that essential first step that will set us on a journey toward a malaria-free Nigeria. While Nigeria's journey to malaria elimination may differ from that of Egypt, the lessons learned from Egypt's success offer valuable insights. Leveraging innovative strategies, enhancing public health initiatives and fostering community engagement will help the country significantly reduce malaria cases and ultimately achieve a malaria-free future. Hopefully, we won't have to wait a hundred years to see it come to fruition.

DSFP 4.0 Fellows Participate in First Fieldwork Exercise

After several intensive classes focused on data collection methods and techniques, the fellows had the opportunity to apply their knowledge in real-world situations. During their training, the fellows learned practical data collection methods using the Open Data Kit (ODK) and learned how to create electronic data forms using XLS. The fieldwork experience allowed them to team up with the data champions on the ongoing longitudinal study designed to assess primary healthcare readiness and service delivery.



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FROM THE BLOG: Advancing Social Good with the NFTI Data Science Community



Spotlight

Aisha Abdulaziz

“NFTI has provided me with the environment and opportunities to fulfill my dreams... Although I am not a doctor, I occupy a role that enables me to contribute to life-saving efforts. Analyzing maternal mortality rates using data to assist the government in targeting interventions is deeply satisfying.”



The article explores how NFTI is building a network of data champions who are tackling social issues and are set to influence public policy & promote sustainable development through evidence-based insights.

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