

Nigerian Radio Producer of “Mother & Child” Program Saves a Young Girl from Severe Malaria

During the insecticide-treated nets (ITNs) campaign in Oyo State, media partners collaborated with the State Ministry of Health and Breakthrough ACTION-Nigeria to educate community members about the campaign and how to access free ITNs. Media messages also communicated information about distribution centers, how to care for mosquito nets, and the importance of sleeping inside them to protect themselves and their families from malaria.

Adetoke Orekoya, a producer of the program “Mother & Child” on Inspiration FM, visited the Ologuneru Primary Health Center (PHC) in Ido Local Government Area, one of the facilities distributing ITNs in Oyo State, to find out how people were accessing net cards as updated content for the next episode of the program. People needed to present net cards at distribution centers to receive nets.

While on this task, she met Oluwatosin Illugbaju, a trader who sells petty things in Ologuneru. Adetoke noticed that Mrs. Illugbaju’s child, Praise, was very pale and asked her about the child’s health. Mrs. Illugbaju said that Praise had been running a temperature and that she had given her local herbs. Adetoke asked if she had taken her to the PHC for malaria testing and treatment. Mrs. Illugbaju said that she had bought malaria drugs at the community pharmacy and was administering them to her child.

Adetoke educated her about the importance of doing a test before treatment, as not all fever cases are malaria, and urged her to visit the PHC. The Mother & Child health crew followed up later to see whether Mrs. Illugbaju took the child to the PHC at Ologuneru. Thankfully, she had. Unfortunately, the health provider diagnosed Praise with severe malaria after testing, and the child had to be admitted to the hospital for further treatment.

Although Mrs. Illugbaju has a treated mosquito net at home, she had refused to sleep inside it with her family. However, after Praise was discharged from the hospital, she began sleeping inside the net together with Praise to protect herself and her daughter.

This incident gave birth to the idea of a drama series, "Health I N," that focused on the importance of testing before treating malaria and the essence of using ITNs. The Mother & Child crew plans to focus the drama on other health topics too, such as COVID-19, tuberculosis, and Lassa fever.





An ad for the Mother & Child program. Photo credit: Breakthrough ACTION-Nigeria

“I love to help mothers answer questions they desire to ask ,even if they are not in the hospital, and being mothers ourselves makes producing the program Mother & Child not just motivational but a passion. Breakthrough ACTION-Nigeria gives useful technical support by linking us with resource persons who feature to educate people on our show. Also, capacity training has helped us to be more intentional and effective in packaging program content/presentation.”

— Adetoke Orekoya, Co-Presenter and Producer, Mother & Child

The Mother & Child health producers championed malaria messages as they continued to work with Breakthrough ACTION-Nigeria to develop and broadcast media content on prevention, testing, and treatment. Weekly, about a hundred thousand people tune in to the lively program featuring the popular hosts Adetoke and Sumbo Yusuf.

“As a young mother, I was clueless about a lot of things health-wise. The program Mother & Child is a medium to help mothers like me. Breakthrough ACTION-Nigeria has helped to provide answers through expert resource persons.”

— Sumbo Yusuf, Co-Presenter and Producer, Mother & Child radio show

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