



“PRIORITIES OF HEALTH ECONOMICS IN AFRICA”

Inaugural Conference of the African Health Economics and Policy Association (AfHEA)
10th – 12th March 2009 - Accra, Ghana

Parallel session 4: Economics and Policy Research to Improve Malaria Control

Session organiser – Catherine Goodman, KEMRI-Wellcome Programme, Kenya and Health Policy Unit, LSHTM.

Effective tools for treating and preventing malaria exist, but their coverage remains well below the 80% target set by the World Health Assembly. Only 23% of children sleep under an insecticide treated net (ITN), and only 3% of children with fever are treated with the recommended Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy (ACT). This session presents data from 3 health economics and policy studies in Africa, which aimed to explore strategies to improve access to malaria prevention and treatment. Two studies look at the impact of subsidies: Jessica Cohen assesses how the level of subsidy on an ITN affects its uptake and use by pregnant women in Kenya, and Catherine Goodman evaluates the impact of an ACT subsidy on retail price and uptake in Tanzania. Many strategies to improve coverage through the retail sector involve some kind of shopkeeper training: Timothy Abuya shows how the nature of implementation of such training programmes can influence their effectiveness. In combination, these papers raise many important issues surrounding the scale up of effective malaria control required to achieve the MDGs.