**Factors that facilitate transmission of malaria in Kaluma Village, TA Jalasi in Mangochi District**

**Introduction**

Malaria sis one of the major public health issues in Mangochi district in Malawi. Interviews and discussion with different groups people of Kaluma village of TA Jalasi in Mangochi revealed that Malaria burden is the number one health problem of the community. Despite interventions being implemented by the Ministry of Health in this community, malaria transmission is occurring hence the high burden of the disease in the community.

**Objective**

To explore factors that are facilitating transmission of malaria in Kaluma village, in Mangochi district

**Methods**

1. Observation – We walked around the village and surrounding communities observing the following – mosquito nets, stagnant waters and infrastructure
2. Interviews –We conducted interviews with individuals of the community, i.e. children, youths, men, women, Health Surveillance Assistants, Medical Assistants and pregnant mothers.
3. Focus group discussions – with groups of men, women and youths respectively.

**Results**

1. **Infrastructure**:

We observed the following properties of houses that offer entry points of mosquitoes:

* 1. Uncovered spaces between the wall and the roof of the house
  2. Houses with no window glasses or with torn sacks on the windows
  3. Grass doors with have holes and leaving spaces between the door and the frame.

1. **Mosquito net usage**:
2. Most women use nets. Few do not either because they do not have one or perceive that sleeping under a rectangular net hastens their deaths as net’s shape is like that of geneza (Muslims’ coffin).
   1. Most men do not sleep under mosquito nets as they believe that nets contribute to impotence. Husbands also sleep on a separate space from their wives for 9 months (from when the wife is 6 months pregnant until the child is 6 months old) hence most husbands do not sleep under nets.
   2. Most youths do not sleep under mosquito nets because they do not have any
   3. Some households use mosquito nets in vegetable nurseries to shield animals from eating them
   4. Most households expose nets to the sun on daily basis to dry them hence weakening potency of Insecticides impregnated in the nets
3. **Environment** 
   1. Stagnant waters around the boreholes, bathrooms and irrigation wells may potentially offer good environment for mosquito bleeding.
   2. Green vegetable gardens around some houses are reservoirs for mosquitoes.

**Recommendations and conclusion**

We recommend the following:

1. Nets should be distributed after every 2 years to households in relation to the number of sleeping spaces available to cater for every member of the household.
2. Ministry of health to consider distributing mosquito nets whose appearances are preferred by the users to promote usage
3. Community bylaws to be formulated to ensure that all mosquito nets are being used for the intended purpose.
4. Civic education to the community to address misconceptions and beliefs related to mosquito net misuse.
5. Regular community sensitization on malaria prevention measures to be made.