Malaria in the 2010 Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS)

The 2010 Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS) provides up-to-date information on the population and health situation in Tanzania, including malaria. Over 9,600 households were interviewed and over 6,600 children were tested for anaemia. Trend graphs show changes since the 2004-05 Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS) and the 2007-08 Tanzania HIV/AIDS and Malaria Indicator Survey (THMIS).

Currently 64% of Tanzanian households own at least one insecticide-treated net (ITN). Nine in ten households in Unguja South own at least one ITN, compared to just 34% of households in Singida. Since the 2004-05 TDHS, ownership of at least one ITN has nearly tripled. Mosquito net distribution campaigns are now focused on achieving universal coverage, meaning that every sleeping space has a net. Just 37% of Tanzanian households have more than one ITN. Seventy-one percent of households in Unguja South have more than one ITN, compared to just 18% of households in Morogoro.

64% of children under age five slept under an ITN the night before the survey. ITN use by children is highest in Mwanza (83%) and lowest in Singida and Morogoro, where just 26% of children under age five slept under an ITN the night before the survey. Nation-wide, use of mosquito nets by children has increased four-fold since the 2004-05 TDHS.

Five percent of children age 6-59 months have severe anaemia (haemoglobin <8.0 g/dl). One in ten children in Arusha are severely anaemic, compared to 1% of children in Iringa and Rukwa. Malaria is one of several possible causes of anaemia, including malnutrition and hookworm infection.

ACT is currently the recommended first-line antimalarial in Mainland Tanzania, while use of monotherapies such as Amodiaquine and SP/Fansidar are no longer recommended. Accordingly, use of ACT to treat fever in children has increased since the 2007-08 THMIS, while use of monotherapies has decreased.