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BEDNETS PLUS LARVICIDES HELP FIGHT MALARIA IN KENYA

GENEVA – The risk that children will become infected with malaria can be substantially reduced through a novel combination of measures to kill the larvae of the malaria mosquito and the use of insecticide-treated nets (ITN), according to a paper published today in the international public health journal, the *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*.

Dr Ulrike Fillinger, lead author of a study into the effect of combining vector control with microbial larvicides and ITNs, found that anti-larval measures proved to be a promising complement to ITN distribution in western Kenya.

“A marked increase in malaria has recently been noted in the African highlands, largely due to the rise of drug-resistant strains of malaria parasites and land-use changes,” Fillinger said. “Our findings suggest that vector (mosquito) control in Africa targeting all stages of the mosquito life-cycle – including the larva stage – can be a highly effective tool for reducing malaria in the future in some parts of sub-Saharan Africa.”

For the past 50 years, vector control has focused largely on adult mosquito control in tropical Africa. WHO recommends integrated vector management using all relevant methods of mosquito control.

Read the research paper here: <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/87/08-055632.pdf>

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- Revenue from tobacco tax may be a deterrent to tobacco control activities in the Republic of Korea.
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- How birthing services are adapted for indigenous women in Peru.
- Ghana close to eliminating guinea worm.
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