Prevalence of malaria infection among the displaced people in Soba (Khartoum State) and Magharba, Gezira State.
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ABSTRACT:

Cross-sectional epidemiological surveys on malaria were carried out in two residential sites, Soba-Aрадhi, Khartoum State, and Magharba, Gezira State. The surveys were conducted during the rainy, pre- and post-rainy seasons, 2004 - 2005. The investigated samples were 410 individuals from Soba and 740 villagers from Magharba. The overall objective of the study is to estimate the prevalence of malaria and the species of Plasmodia. Another policy-oriented objective is the socioeconomic analysis of malaria burden, with special emphasis on the villagers' KAP. The achievement of the objectives was attained by exploiting the group discussions, questionnaires and interviews of the randomly selected samples. The pilot surveys provided the baseline data and enriched the available knowledge about the surveyed communities. Family lists were updated for sample size determination, using the relevant computer packages.
Thin blood films were prepared to examine the presence of malaria parasites in the subjects using light microscope. In Soba, the proportion of the infection rate was 40% in post-rainy season, 8% in pre-rainy season, and 52% in the rainy season, while in Magharba the monitored prevalence rates were 31.3%, 11.4 and 57.3%, respectively.

In Soba, the dominant Plasmodia were *P. falciparum* 94%, followed by *P. malariae* 4% and *P. vivax* 2%, while not a single case of *P. ovale* was detected. In Magharba, the infection rates among the males outnumbered those of the females, 51.1% compared to 24.9%, but no variation due to gender in Soba. Exactly half of the Magharba community complained that the cost of medical-services is beyond their financial means; hence seek the traditional healers or home treatment, 67.3%. Magharba survey pointed out that 25% of the samples used to keep anti-malaria in home, where 60.4% of them not used to check the expiry-date of the drugs.

In Magharba, the adopted tactics for avoiding mosquito-bites include: lubrication by sesame oil or some petroleum-derivatives, usage of normal or impregnated bednets, put on some smoke and some local perfumes. In Magharba, 86.8% of the villagers used to store water at home, where 73.9% of them used to cover their water containers. In Soba, the rate of malaria infection was found to increase with the period of residence in the camp, while the reverse is true in the Engaz. Finally - based on the findings of the investigation, some effective measures for combating the disease were recommended.