

intermittent **P**reventive **T**reatment of malaria in pregnant women (**iPTp-SP**)

project to supply pregnant women with prophylactic treatment
(SP = sulfadoxine + pyrimethamine) in Sierra Leone



Congress of Swiss Society of Gynecology and Obstetrics

SGGG

Interlaken, 26.06.2024

Brigitte Weber, Sarnen

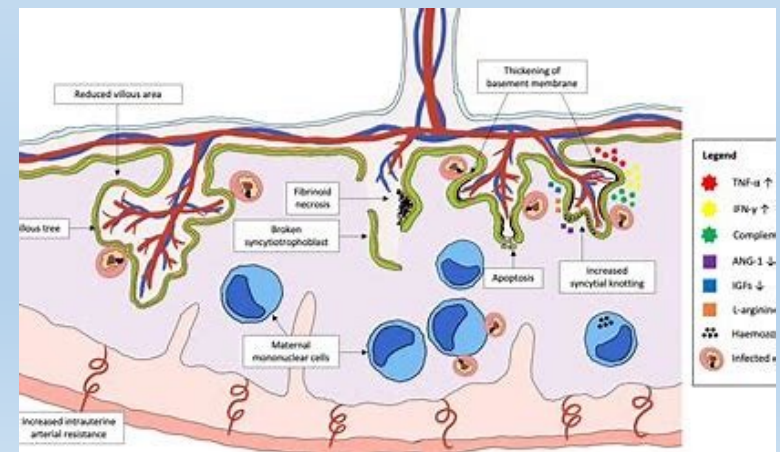


FACTS ABOUT MALARIA (WHO 12/2023)

- Malaria is one of the major health problems, highest burden in Sub-Saharan Africa
- In Sierra Leone malaria is endemic throughout the country all year round
- WHO highly recommends **iPTp-SP** (3tbl SP q 4 weeks, 3-7 x)
- This regime is officially established in the health strategy of Sierra Leone
- The Ministry of Health in Sierra Leone promises free medication for pregnant women
- Distribution is erratic and many health centers lack SP

MALARIA IN PREGNANCY

- Loss of acquired partial immunity
- More common due to immuno-suppression
- More vulnerable + more severe
- Parasitemia up to 10 times higher
- Up to 35% of pregnant women in AnteNatalClinic (ANC) were tested positive for malaria in certain areas
- Placental malaria (in endemic regions up to 65% of pregnant women have placental malaria irrespective of symptoms)
 - Causes inflammation of basal membrane (thickening)
 - Reduces villous area
 - Transfer of nutrients and oxygen is impaired



RISKS FOR THE (UNBORN) CHILD

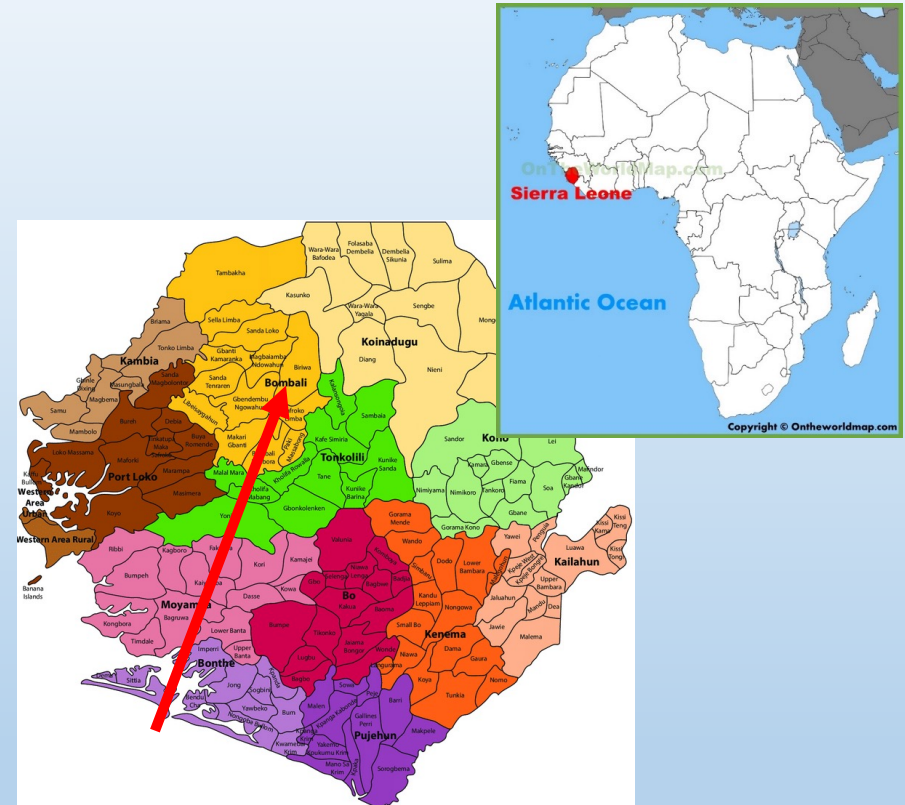


- Miscarriage
- Intrauterine death, stillbirth
- Premature delivery
- Low birth weight
- Malaria at birth (rare)

PROJECT «iPTp-SP» IN MARAMPA CHIEFDOM

- goals -

- Reach all pregnant women for iPTp-SP
- Monitor percentage of pregnant women receiving iPTp
- Monitor severe cases of malaria in pregnancy
- Reduction of morbidity and mortality of pregnant women due to malaria
- Reduction of rate of intrauterine death, still birth, premature delivery and low birth weight

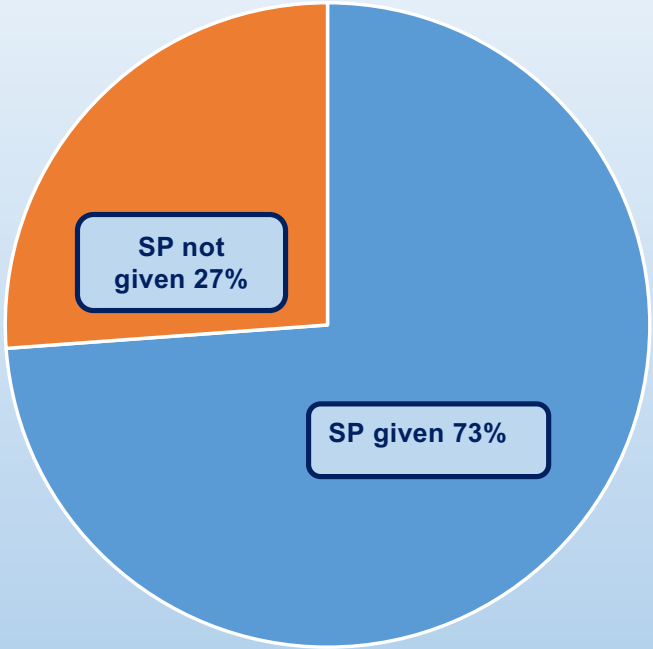


PROJECT «iPTp-SP» IN MARAMPA CHIEFDOM

- achievements -

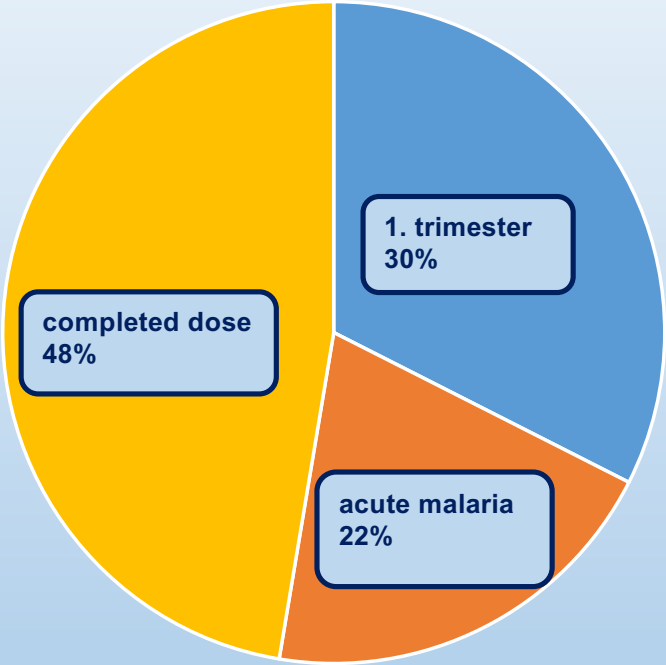
- Project was launched in the chiefdom with different stakeholders 5/2023
- Healthworkers of all PHUs were updated on the project and the disease
- A system was set up to make sure PHUs never run out of SP
- Data were collected
 - Percentage of pregnant women receiving SP
 - Data of cases of acute malaria in pregnancy
 - Admissions to hospital of pregnant women due to malaria

Visits to ANC



■ SP given ■ SP not given

Reasons no SP was given



■ 1. trimester ■ acute malaria ■ completed dose

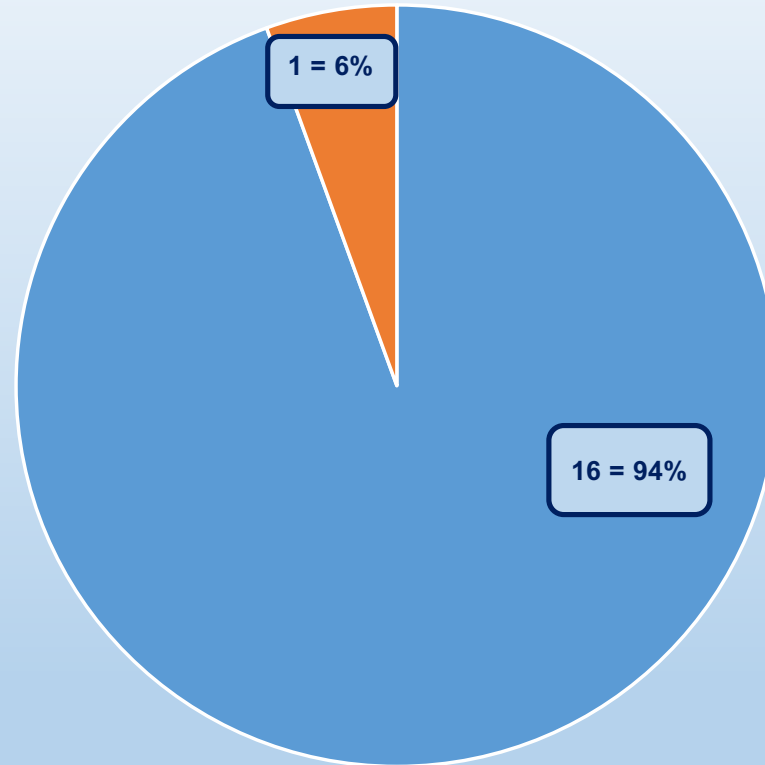
MALARIA UNDER SP IN ANC



10 022 doses of SP in ANC:

- No cases of acute malaria observed after regular SP intake
- Not verified by malaria tests (RDTs), as not widely available

Admission of pregnant women with acute malaria



■ admission lacking SP ■ received timely SP

SUMMARY AND CHALLENGES

- Good acceptance and compliance of healthworkers and pregnant women for iPTp
- No cases of acute malaria under SP in health units
- Reliable effect of prophylaxis to prevent severe malaria
- Raised awareness for danger of malaria for mother **and unborn child**
- Sustainability of project due to weak government, high rate of corruption, extreme poverty



Thank you for your attention!

