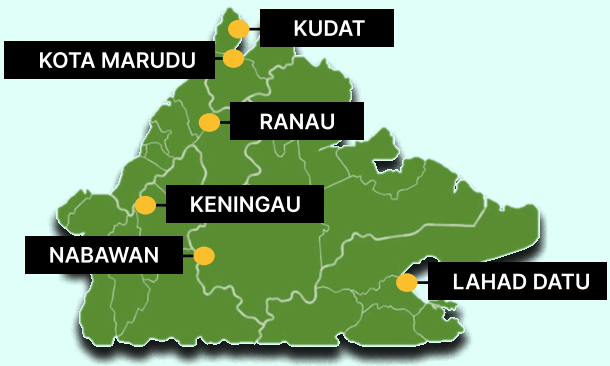
WOMEN EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES AGAINST *P. KNOWLESI MALARIA*



BACKGROUND

P. knowlesi malaria is prevalent in Sabah, Malaysia due to ecological and human factors such as logging and agricultural activities, with cases rising from 2% in 2004 to 98% in 2017.

STUDY SITES

Six localities in Sabah such as Kudat, Kota Marudu, Ranau, Keningau, Nabawan and Lahad Datu were selected with 2 villages from each assigned to control and case groups.

Assessment

- Cognitive interview
- Survey of (KAP): Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices

Implementation

- Awareness activities
- Practical Measures
- Community Involvement

Preliminary Result

- No new cases occurred during the intervention phase except in one locality.
- For example in Kudat after the intervention, protective behaviours improved, more people used mosquito protection, wore protective clothing, and cleaned their surroundings.
- At the same time, reliance on traditional/ self-treatment dropped, showing better adoption of recommended malaria prevention practices.

CONCLUSION

Future studies should explore the factors contributing to the rise in malaria cases in Kudat and Keningau while ensuring the sustainability of effective interventions in areas like Ranau. Emphasizing continuous education, monitoring, and community engagement will be crucial for long-term malaria control.

A project by the Institute for Health Behavioural Research (IHBR), Sabah State Health Department and Universiti Malaysia Sabah