

ABSTRACT POSTER PRESENTATION

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: PRE AND POST SURVEY ON WOLBACHIA PROJECT IN SHAH ALAM, MALAYSIA.

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Introduction: Community acceptability, approval and feedback is important for the future use and success of *Wolbachia* Project in community engagement.

Objective: To obtain community acceptability, approval and feedback of the *Wolbachia* project in Section 7, Shah Alam, Malaysia.

Methods: The survey was conducted from January to August 2017. The target group consists of community leaders and residents of this area. Universal sampling was used to select the respondents. Initially several methods of data collection were used for this study using *self-administered* questionnaires, face to face interview with minimal guidance thru house to house visit and put questionnaire in the post box to gauge the full range of views which used representative population samples. This study used pre and post survey. Data were analyse using SPSS software.

Results: Until August 2017, pre survey have been successfully conducted and 1,263 (100%) house been covered. The findings showed that 652 (51.6%) of respondents have responded and out of these 648 (99.4%) agreed to support the release. Finally on May 13, 2017 Institute for Medical Research, Ministry of Health, Malaysia released the first mosquitoes with wolbachia at Section 7, Shah Alam. Meanwhile post survey was conducted from June to August 2017 to get feedback from communities. Majority of communities believe the mosquito population is decreasing in their residential areas. Most of them inform that no complaints or protests among their neighborhoods. Furthermore, two third community believe that wolbachia can potentially reduce dengue fever cases. Most communities have shared wolbachia information with neighbors and 100% of residents agree to continue carrying out environmental cleansing activities and destroy potential breeding places of aedes mosquitoes in their respective areas.

Discussion and Conclusion: In approaching community engagement aspects of site selection, it is important that the relationship with the relevant communities is understood not as a single encounter. Although the released of mosquitoes with *wolbachia* was operated, follow-up monitoring is carried out to curb if there are objections from the community. Good rapport with community leaders are still ongoing.

Keywords: Community Engagement, Wolbachia, Malaysia