Associating the Scale-Up of Insecticide-Treated Nets and Use With the Decline in All-Cause Child Mortality in the Democratic Republic of Congo From 2005 to 2014

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Abstract

Background To reduce the malaria burden and improve the socioeconomic status of its citizens, the Democratic Republic of Congo scaled up key malaria control interventions, especially insecticide-treated nets (ITNs), between 2005 and 2014. Since then, the effects of these interventions on malaria mortality and morbidity have not been assessed. This study aims to measure the impact of the National Malaria Control Programme's efforts and to inform future control strategies.

Methods The authors used data from the Demographic and Health Surveys 2007 and 2013-2014 to assess trends in all-cause childhood mortality (ACCM) against trends in coverage of malaria interventions at national and subnational levels. The authors used the plausibility argument to assess the impact of the malaria control interventions and used Kaplan-Meier survival probability and Cox proportional hazard models to examine the effect of ITN ownership on child survival. Contextual factor trends affecting child survival were also considered.

Results Countrywide, household ownership of at least one ITN increased, from 9% in 2007 to 70% in 2013-2014. All provinces experienced similar increases, with some greater than the national level. ITN use increased between 2007 and 2013-2014 among children under five (6% to 55%). Severe anaemia (haemoglobin concentration <8g/dl) prevalence among children aged 6–59 months significantly decreased, from 11% (95% confidence interval [CI]: 9–13%) in 2007 to 6% (95% CI: 5–7%) in 2013-2014. During the same period, ACCM declined, from 148 (95% CI: 132-163) to 104 (95% CI: 97-112) deaths per 1,000 live births. The decline in ACCM was greater among children aged 6–23 months (relative reduction of 36%), compared to children aged 24–59 months (relative reduction of 12%). Cox regression indicated that household ownership of at least one ITN reduced the risk of mortality by 24% among children under five (risk ratio=0.76, 95% CI: 0.64–0.90). Contextual factor analysis revealed marginal improvements in socioeconomic indicators and other health interventions.

Conclusions Given the patterns of the coverage of malaria control interventions, patterns in ACCM by province, and marginal improvements in contextual factors, the authors conclude that the malaria control interventions have plausibly contributed to the decrease in ACCM in the Democratic Republic of Congo from 2005 to 2014.

Background

Over the last decade, malaria has been the leading cause of mortality and morbidity in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), with an estimated 97% of the Congolese population at risk of malaria infection [1, 2]. To improve the overall health of its citizens and reduce the socioeconomic burden of malaria, the country and its technical and financial partners invested significantly in proven malaria control interventions between 2005 and 2015. Using these funds, the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) set objectives to contribute to the elimination of malaria and reduce the malaria mortality and morbidity rates by 50% compared to the 2010 levels by 2015 [3]. The NMCP's strategy was to scale up and expand access to these key interventions: the use of insecticide-treated nets (ITNs), intermittent preventive treatment in pregnancy (IPTp), indoor residual spraying (IRS), and prompt and effective malaria case management [3, 4]. DRC's

efforts to achieve its malaria control goals focused on the scale-up of ITN coverage through free ITN mass distribution campaigns and routine distribution during antenatal care visits and expanded programme on immunization (EPI) visits [3].

To measure the coverage achieved and potential impact of these key interventions on the DRC community, impact evaluations are needed. Evaluations assessing intervention scale-up effects on all-cause child mortality (ACCM) have been carried out in other countries across sub-Saharan Africa [5, 6]. However, DRC is lacking such an evaluation.

This study aims to fill this gap in DRC by measuring the extent to which malaria control interventions have been implemented and scaled up using the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS). Based on the DHS, the authors will assess the trends of malaria morbidity and mortality from 2005 to 2014 and evaluate plausible attribution between trends. Although the current national malaria strategic plan (NMSP) encompasses the period from 2016 to 2020, the latest available DHS survey is from 2013–2014, which precludes the assessment of more recent trends [2, 7]. The results of this assessment will allow for a comparison between the intervention coverage achieved and the NMSP targets set for 2015 [3]. In addition, the results will be a key resource in providing baseline data on intervention coverage and malaria morbidity and mortality for the current 2016–2020 NMSP. Following the end of this NMSP, another evaluation can then be used to compare this baseline and evaluate the NMCP progress made on these key indicators [7].

Materials And Methods

Data Sources

This evaluation used nationally representative household survey data from the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) between 2005 and 2014. The surveys were conducted in DRC in 2007 and 2013–2014 [1, 2]. The authors omitted the 2010 and 2017–2018 DRC Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey and from this study because of incongruous mortality estimate methodology. The contextual factor data were obtained from the DHS. Gross domestic product per capita purchasing power parity, total annual rainfall, and temperature data were from the World Bank [8, 9].

Study Design

This evaluation used the before-and-after plausibility approach as recommended by the RBM Partnership to End Malaria Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group [10]. The rationale behind the use of this evaluation design for measuring the primary impact of the scale-up of malaria control interventions on ACCM has been extensively discussed in previous publications [5, 11–13]. Based on the above assumption and previous research on the effectiveness of malaria control interventions, the improved coverage of these interventions (ITNs, IRS, IPTp, case management) should result in a reduction in ACCM, assuming that other contextual factors have not substantially changed over the evaluation period (Fig. 1). The plausibility approach is strengthened by the simultaneous decline in other outcome measures such as malaria prevalence and severe anaemia concurrent with malaria control intervention scale-up. The use of ACCM as the primary impact indicator provides a robust measure that accounts for direct and indirect malaria mortality. In

addition to the mortality indicator, morbidity was assessed through measuring trends in severe anaemia (haemoglobin [Hb] concentration < 8 g/dl) prevalence among children aged 6–59 months from 2005 to 2013–2014 as well as the mortality rate among children of the same age group [14]. Data on the prevalence of malaria among children aged 6–59 months were not available for the DHS 2007; therefore, it was not possible to assess trends for that indicator during the evaluation period.

Analytical Approach

Trends Analysis

Descriptive analysis was conducted using Stata version 14 (Stata Corporation, College Station, TX). To account for the hierarchical design, the SVY commands were used, with household weights considered for each analysis. Percentages and rates were calculated with 95% confidence intervals (CIs) to assess trends between 2007 and 2013–2014 at the national and subnational levels. The 11 provinces that constituted DRC until 2015 were examined. The analysis encompasses changes in intervention coverage, including ownership and use of ITNs and access to malaria diagnosis and treatment for children with fever, but also changes in outcomes measures such as prevalence of malaria and severe anaemia as well as ACCM. The key household survey indicators used for this evaluation are provided in Table 1 [15].

Table 1
Key household surveys indicators used for this evaluation [15]

Indicator	Definition
Vector control indicators	
ITNs	Proportion of households with at least one ITN
	Proportion of households with at least one ITN for every two people
	Proportion of children under five years old who slept under an ITN the previous night
Case management indicators	
Early access to diagnosis and effective treatment	Proportion of children under five years old with fever in last two weeks who had a finger or heel stick
	Proportion receiving first-line treatment, among children under five years old with fever in the last two weeks
Impact indicators	
Morbidity	Proportion of children aged 6–59 months with a haemoglobin measurement of < 8 g/dl
	Proportion of children aged 6–59 months with malaria infection (microscopy)
Mortality	All-cause mortality in children under five (5q0)

Regression Analysis

The regression analysis included Kaplan-Meier survival and Cox proportional hazard models to support the plausibility argument. The Kaplan-Meier survival analysis used the full birth history data from the DHS 2013–2014, which were transformed into a 10-year retrospective (2004–2013) longitudinal dataset reflecting individual child observations from birth until the date of the survey or, in the unfortunate event, the death of the child. Kaplan-Meier survival estimates were calculated, and comparisons were made for survival probability of children aged 0–59 months before (2004–2008) and after (2009–2013) the expansion of malaria control interventions. The assumption is that child survival would improve post-intervention scale-up, compared to pre-intervention scale-up. The outcome variable was defined as the age at which a child dies or the age at interview for those who survived. A dichotomous variable (coded 1 if the child died and 0 if the child was alive) was used to define the censoring status.

Cox proportional hazards regression used the same longitudinal birth history dataset as the Kaplan-Meier analysis. This model allows for use of time-varying covariates to produce a hazard ratio [16–18]. When the hazard ratio is greater than one, there is an increased risk of mortality in the corresponding category compared to the reference category. Conversely, the risk of dying is lower when the hazard ratio is less than one. The hazard rate in the Cox model is computed as:

$$h\left(\frac{t}{z_j}\right) = h_0(t), \exp(\beta_j z_j(t))$$

where the regression coefficients are to be estimated from the data. The term $h_0(t)$ is the baseline hazard function (the hazard when $z = 0$), $z_j(t)$ is the individual covariates vector, and β_j is a vector of the regression parameters that indicates the effects of these covariates, some of them varying with t (hence, the term time-varying covariate). The relative hazards are given by $\exp(\beta_j z_j(t))$.

To identify an individual child's exposure to an ITN, data on the duration of ownership of ITNs were used to construct a time-varying variable of ITN ownership for up to two years before the survey (2011–2013). The model included all children aged 0–59 months for the two-year period of exposure to ITN ownership to account for recall bias related to duration of ITN ownership. The analysis time was defined in months from the beginning of the period, allowing the introduction of age as a covariate in the analysis. Each child was observed from the beginning of the observation period until censoring due to death or until the date of the survey. A dichotomous variable (coded 1 if the child died and 0 if the child was alive) was used to define the censoring status. The Cox proportional hazards model assessed the relationship between household ITN ownership and child mortality (deaths of children aged 0–59 months) over the 24 months preceding the survey in each malaria-endemic zone. The model was adjusted for child's age (month), child's sex, mother's age (year) at child's birth, mother's education, parity (number of children ever born), household wealth quintiles, and place of residence (urban/rural) because these co-variables are likely to be associated with both mortality and household ownership of ITN.

Results

Trend in Intervention Coverage

Ownership of ITNs

At the national level, the proportion of households owning at least one ITN increased significantly by 61 percentage points, from 9% (95% CI: 8–10.6%) in 2007 to 70% (95% CI: 68.6–71.4%) in 2013. Similar patterns were observed in all the provinces, with percentage point increases higher than the national increase in Equateur (79 percentage points), Bandundu (76 percentage points), Katanga (72 percentage points), and Sud-Kivu (64 percentage points) (Fig. 2).

Use of ITNs among Children under Five

At the national level, the use of ITNs in children under five years of age in all households significantly increased, from 6% (95% CI: 5–7%) in 2007 to 55% (95% CI: 54–57%) in 2013. The highest increases were observed in the provinces of Bandundu (73 percentage points), Equateur (63 percentage points), Katanga (55 percentage points), and Sud-Kivu (55 percentage points) (Fig. 3).

Use of Recommended Malaria Treatment among Children under Five

The proportion of children under five with fever in the two weeks preceding the survey treated with artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs) slightly improved from 2007, with an increase from less than 1% in 2007 to 5% in 2013 (Fig. 4). Subnationally, the use of ACTs also increased, with improvements in every province. However, access to ACTs remained very low, with 5% of children with fever treated with ACTs nationally.

Change in Morbidity and Mortality

Morbidity: Change in Severe Anaemia

At the national level, the prevalence of severe anaemia in children decreased significantly, from 11% (95% CI: 9–13%) in 2007 to 6% (95% CI: 5–7%) in 2013. At the subnational level, a significant decrease in the prevalence of severe anaemia among children was observed in the provinces of Equateur, from 16% (95% CI: 10–24%) in 2007 to 5% (95% CI: 3–8%) in 2013, and Oriental, from 16% (95% CI: 10–25%) in 2007 to 8% (95% CI: 5–13%) in 2013 (Fig. 5).

Mortality: Change in ACCM

The ACCM rate declined between 2007 and 2013–2014. The mortality rate among children under five decreased significantly by 30 percentage points, from 148 (95% CI: 133–163) per 1,000 live births in 2007 to 104 (95% CI: 98–111) per 1,000 live births in 2013. The infant mortality rate also decreased significantly by 34 percentage points, from 92 (95% CI: 80–105%) per 1,000 live births in 2007 to 58 (95% CI: 54–63%) per 1,000 live births in 2013 (data not shown). A significant decrease (relative reduction of 36 percentage points) was observed in children aged 6–23 months, compared to children aged 24–59 months (relative reduction of 12 percentage points) (data not shown). By region, the largest decreases (relative reductions ranging from 15 to 52 percentage points) were found in Bas-Congo, Bandundu, Maniema, and Oriental provinces (Fig. 6).

Change in Mortality Risk Associated with Scale-up of ITN Ownership

Kaplan-Meier Survival Probability

Kaplan-Meier survival probability analysis shows a significant improvement of the survival probability of children aged 0–59 months between 2004 and 2013–2014. The survival probability was significantly higher among children born between 2009 and 2013, the period corresponding to the scale-up of malaria control interventions, compared to children born between 2004 and 2008, when the coverage of interventions was still low (Fig. 7). Among children aged 24–36 months, the probability of survival among children in 2004–2008 was approximately 89%, compared to 92% among children in 2009–2013.

Cox Regression

The Cox proportional hazards regression examined the risk of mortality among children aged 0–59 months in relation to household ownership of ITNs. Household ownership of at least one ITN reduced the risk of mortality among children aged 0–59 months by 24 percentage points during the 24-month period before the survey (risk ratio = 0.76, 95% CI: 0.64–0.90) (Table 2).

Table 2
Effect of household ITN ownership on 0–59-month mortality with the Cox regression model in DRC from 2011 to 2013

Variables	Risk ratio (95% CI)
Predictor	
Household ITN ownership	
Household without ITN	Reference
Household owning at least 1 ITN	0.76 (0.64–0.90)
Characteristics	
Age of the child (in months)	
< 6	Reference
6–11	0.40 (0.31–0.51)
12–23	0.20 (0.14–0.27)
24–35	0.09 (0.06–0.15)
36–47	0.06 (0.03–0.11)
47–59	0.02 (0.01–0.08)
Sex of the child	
Male	Reference
Female	0.97 (0.82–1.14)
Mother's education	
No education	Reference
Primary	1.21 (0.97–1.5)
Secondary or higher	1.13 (0.87–1.46)
Mother's marital status	
Single	Reference
Married	0.72 (0.46–1.11)
Single/widow	0.98 (0.60–1.60)
Household wealth quintiles	
Lowest	Reference
Second	0.98 (0.77–1.23)
Note: Bold = statistically significant	

Variables	Risk ratio (95% CI)
Middle	1.02 (0.81–1.30)
Fourth	0.91 (0.69–1.20)
Highest	0.45 (0.30–0.68)
Place of residence	
Rural	Reference
Urban	0.77 (0.61–0.96)
Person month	367,405.1
N (death)	19,820 (550)
Note: Bold = statistically significant	

Modest Change in Contextual Factors

Contextual factors, including socioeconomic factors, maternal and child health interventions, and meteorological factors, were examined [19, 20]. Gross domestic product per capita increased, from 218 USD in 2005 to 497 USD in 2015; however, the overall health expenditure also increased, from 9 USD in 2005 to more than 19 USD in 2015 [8, 21]. Most indicators of living conditions and sanitation showed limited improvement from 2007 to 2013, such as access to improved water source (46–49%) and access to improved sanitation (15–18%). From 2007 to 2013, most indicators of maternal and child health in DRC did not significantly improve. Two indicators of antenatal care, which were relatively high in 2007, improved modestly in 2013. The proportion of women who gave birth in a health facility increased, from 70.1% (95% CI: 69.2–71.0%) in 2007 to 79.9% (95% CI: 79.3–80.5%) in 2013. The proportion of births assisted by skilled personnel increased, from 74.0% (95% CI: 70.0–78.0%) in 2007 to 80.1% (95% CI: 77.6–82.7%) in 2013. The nutritional status among children under five assessed through the proportion receiving vitamin A also increased, from 54.6% (95% CI: 50.4–58.8%) in 2007 to 70.3% (95% CI: 67.9–72.6%) in 2013 and a decrease in stunting from 45.5% (95% CI: 42.7–48.4) in 2007 to 42.4% (40.4–44.3%) in 2013. Of the child health indicators examined, only two have seen an increase greater than ten percentage points between 2007 and 2013 [22]. Full basic vaccination increased, from 30.6% (95% CI: 25.9–35.2%) in 2007 to 45.3% (95% CI: 42.0–48.6%) in 2013, and exclusive breastfeeding increased, from 36.1% (95% CI: 33.0–35.2%) in 2007 to 47.6 (95% CI: 45.5–49.8%) in 2013.

In addition to these contextual factors, the total annual rainfall over the assessment period, calculated from the difference between the total annual precipitation for the year and total annual precipitation for the previous five years, has mostly deviated between – 50 and + 50 millimetres, except for 2006, which had a significant increase of 188 millimetres in rainfall [9]. The average temperatures also experienced positive and negative deviations between – 0.5° C and 0.5° C during the evaluation period. However, despite these differences, mean annual temperatures remained between 24° C and 25° C, which are favourable temperatures for malaria transmission. The total annual rainfall and temperature remained consistent and

conducive to malaria transmission throughout the evaluation period; this regularity provides an appropriate background to evaluate the other indicators.

Overall Changes in Coverage of Interventions and Malaria Mortality and Morbidity

The coverage of household ITN ownership and ITN use among children under five shows a significant increase from 2007 to 2013. This increase is matched by the decrease in infant mortality, from 148 to 55 deaths per 1,000 live births, and the decrease in the prevalence of severe anaemia, from 11–5% among children under five (Fig. 8).

Discussion

This study identified a significant decrease in severe anaemia and ACCM in DRC from 2007 to 2013–2014. This downward trend is most likely driven by household ownership of ITNs and use of ITNs among children under five. During this same period, there was a significant increase in financial investments by the country and its partners, focused on the scale-up of malaria control interventions, particularly vector control, from 18 million USD in 2007 to 175 million USD in 2015 [23, 24]. The NMCP implemented three ITN mass distribution campaigns across the country from 2009 to 2013, with a plan to distribute 1–3 ITNs per household or about 35 million ITNs total [25, 26]. This strategy and investments led to the significant increase in household ITN ownership and use among children under five. DRC nearly achieved its ITN ownership coverage target of 80%. ITN ownership and use targets are often difficult to achieve. In a study of 22 sub-Saharan African countries, only 4 achieved their household ITN ownership targets, and none achieved their ITN use among children under five targets [27]. Despite not meeting the targets, the intervention coverage in DRC reached a level mature enough to have a public health impact.

The results show a clear pattern, which can be observed through the changes across the 11 provinces. The subnational analysis revealed an overall increase in ITN ownership and a significant decrease in ACCM and severe anaemia, but most importantly, some of the provinces with the largest improvements in coverage of ITN ownership and use also reported the largest decrease in ACCM. A finding reflected in a similar assessment showed a strong correlation between a high level of ITN use and the protective effect against malaria among children under five in DRC [28]. The implementation of routine distribution of ITNs through antenatal clinics and EPI services, with a focus on younger children, may have resulted in the more pronounced decline in child mortality among children aged 6–23 months, compared to those aged 24–59 months. This is significant because children aged 6–23 months are more susceptible to malaria mortality [29]. Similar results were found by Dolan et al., who identified a 41% reduction in ACCM among children living in rural areas due to ITN distribution campaigns that targeted the highest risk areas for malaria in DRC [30]. Furthermore, this observation is consistent with other studies in sub-Saharan Africa that found an association between an increase in ITN ownership and a decline in ACCM and severe anaemia [31–33].

The results of the Kaplan-Meier survival probability analysis and Cox proportional hazards regressions both indicated an improved probability of survival among children under five post-intervention scale-up, compared

to pre-intervention scale-up, which further supports the association between the increase in ITN coverage and decrease in ACCM. These methods have been used in similar studies assessing ITN effectiveness in reducing child mortality [34].

In addition to the scale-up of ITNs, the NMCP planned to implement several interventions during the evaluation period, however, the results were not as promising. The trends analysis revealed that access to ACTs was still very low. In addition, low adherence to treatment policies and use of non-ACTs were prevalent across the country [35]. The deployment of IRS across the country has been limited to one province due to funding and technical and logistical challenges [25]. The scale-up of IPTp across the country has not reached a comparable scale to ITNs [25]. A study conducted in 2013 found that only 20% of public health facilities in DRC were stocking sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine for IPTp [36]. The unmet goals for these interventions strengthen the plausible attribution of ITN ownership and ITN use to the observed decrease in ACCM.

To further investigate potential factors that may have contributed to the decline in ACCM, the contextual factor analysis indicated only a modest improvement in living conditions, sanitation, and maternal and child health indicators, such as nutritional status, vaccination status, exclusive breastfeeding, and access to water and improved toilets [2, 37, 38]. There were also no substantial changes in climate, rainfall, and temperature between 2005 and 2014 that may have affected the national mortality trend. Based on the analysis of these key factors known to affect malaria incidence, it is unlikely that these non-malaria contextual factors can explain a large proportion of the 30% reduction of ACCM [39, 40].

Overall, these results support the conclusion that the increase in household ITN ownership and increase in ITN use among children under five have contributed to the observed decrease in ACCM and severe anaemia from 2005 to 2014 in DRC. This study provides an assessment of the intervention coverage achieved and describes malaria-related morbidity and mortality rates up to 2014 in DRC. These results also provide baseline data that will be important for the measurement of the imminent progress that will be achieved at the end of the current 2016–2020 NMSP and may inform the decision-making of the NMCP and its partners as they transition to a new NMSP. Further research will be needed to fully understand how an increase in ITN ownership and use results in decreased ACCM and severe anaemia. However, DRC has made significant progress since 2005 in increasing intervention coverage and decreasing the burden of malaria on the population.

Limitations of the Study

The use of secondary data from the DHS 2007 and DHS 2013–2014 limited this study to the variables that were collected in those surveys. No further primary data were collected. The difference in methodology between national surveys precluded the inclusion of the 2010 and 2017–2018 DRC Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, which may have provided another data point to help elucidate the effects of DRC's malaria control intervention scale-up.

Conclusion

DRC has made significant gains in the coverage of and access to key malaria control interventions, such as ITNs. As DRC continues to focus its energy on scaling up malaria control strategies, the results are encouraging for future gains against the disease. The evidence in this study supports the conclusion that the scale-up of malaria control interventions substantially contributed to the observed decline in ACCM in DRC from 2005 to 2014, despite the high malaria prevalence in the country. When the next DHS survey is conducted in DRC, a similar analysis will be helpful to evaluate the achievements and impact of DRC’s 2016–2020 NMSP.

Abbreviations

ACCM	all-cause child mortality
ACT	artemisinin-based combination therapy
CI	confidence interval
EPI	Expanded programme on immunization
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
IPTp	intermittent preventive treatment in pregnancy
ITN	insecticide-treated net
NMCP	National Malaria Control Programme
NMSP	national malaria strategic plan

Declarations

Ethics Approval and Consent to Participate

No primary data were collected for this study; therefore, no further institutional review board approval was sought.

Consent for Publication

Not applicable

Availability of Data and Material

The data that support the findings of this study are available from The DHS Program upon reasonable request and with permission of The DHS Program.

Competing Interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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Author Contributions

YY designed the evaluation, conceptualized the manuscript and provided guidance for writing; KJ, IN, and AA drafted the manuscript and addressed all the revisions; OK, EM, JL, JE, AS, MH, and MN contributed to the design and implementation of the evaluation and provided inputs to the manuscript; YTB reviewed the manuscript and provided inputs, all co-authors reviewed and approved the content of the manuscript.

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Figures

Figure 1

Framework for evaluating the impact of malaria interventions [5]. Note: EPI: Extended Programme for Immunization, VitA: Vitamin A, PMTCT: prevention of mother to child transmission

Figure 2

Evolution of the proportion of households with at least one ITN at the national level and by province, in the DRC from 2007 to 2013. Note: ITN=insecticide-treated net

Figure 3

Evolution of proportion of children under five years old who slept under an ITN the previous night at the national level and by province, in the DRC from 2007 to 2013. Note: ITN=insecticide-treated net

Figure 4

Evolution of the proportion of children under five with fever treated with an ACT the national level and by province, in the DRC from 2007 to 2013. Note: ACT=Artemisinin-based combination therapy

Figure 5

Prevalence of severe anaemia (Hb <8g/dl) among children aged 6–59 months by province, in the DRC from 2007 to 2013 Note: Hb=Haemoglobin

Figure 6

Trends in all-cause mortality among children under five by province, in the DRC from 2007 to 2013

Figure 7

Kaplan-Meier survival probability Note: CI=Confidence interval

Figure 8

Summary of trends in intervention coverage, severe anaemia, and malaria mortality in children under five, in the DRC from 2007 to 2013 Note: ITN=insecticide-treated net