



The Resistant Mosquito

Video Transcript

Welcome to Nsuhya, where the water meets

KEZIAH: Welcome to Nsuhya on the first stop of our journey. Nsuhya is a fictional, but typical, African village. It consists of dwellings which are located close to a river from where the name of the village stems. The families have many members and the village has a population of several hundred people.

FREDROS: Every family owns a dwelling and a field, which is often cultivated in the traditional way. Vegetables, grains and fruits are grown for their own needs. They may also have some livestock.

Life is very simple and is determined by rainy and dry seasons. Planting begins at the end of the dry season; therefore, there is a lot to do at that time. The harvest takes place at the end of the rainy season, and everyone has to help, even the children.

KEZIAH: In the middle of Nsuhya is the village square. Children play in the shade of the trees. In the evening, the elders gather here. Market day is exciting for all villagers. They buy and sell vegetables, fruits, crops, animals. Basketwork, tools, pots and fabric can also be bought on the market. The markets are always colourful and busy.

FREDROS: The village, like many more in Africa, knows malaria all too well. Mosquitoes are a fact of life in Nsuhya.

Thanks to the National Ministry of Health and their Vector Control Programme, long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets were distributed and the inside walls of houses were sprayed with insecticides. Both measures reduced the number of bites that the villagers had from malaria-infected mosquitoes.

In the regional hospital, the number of cases of severe malaria in young children was falling. However, in the last few years, the decline in cases has stalled, and there is an anecdotal evidence that people are receiving more mosquito bites.

KEZIAH: Nsuhya is a fictional location, but this story could be told of many real places. The concern that our control of the mosquito vectors of disease is becoming less effective is also real. Let's leave Nsuhya for the moment and find out more about the background of mosquito vector control and the issues of insecticide resistance. This will help us better understand how we got to where we are today.