
Group Discussion Topic Guide: Houses with Ceilings
Screening Homes to Prevent Malaria STOPMAL
Local Principal Investigator: Dr Matthew Kirby (Durham University)
Moderator: Mr Pateh Bah (Medical Research Council Laboratories, The Gambia)

After the introductions, but before starting the discussion, check that all the participants are living in a house with a screened ceiling.

How long have you had the netting ceiling in your house?

Effect/Impact of screened ceiling

Impact on comfort/mosquitoes/insects etc.

Since having the ceiling have you noticed any differences when you are inside your house?

- *Probe:* any differences at night – what differences have you noticed & why do you think they have happened? (any differences in your sleeping – how has your sleeping been different and why do you think these differences have happened?)
- *Probe:* any other differences? (number of mosquitoes, other insects, problems with rats, etc)

Impact on mosquito net use

Do any of you own a mosquito net? *If some people say yes then probe*

- *Probe:* is it you who usually sleeps under the net or someone else?
- *Probe:* why do you (or they) sleep under a net?

Has your use of the net changed at all since you had your ceiling screened?

- *Probe:* do you (they) sleep under it now?
If yes: why?
If not: why no longer sleeping under the net?

Problems with doors

Before you had your ceiling screens installed did you keep your doors closed or open at night?

- *Probe:* Why did you keep your doors open/closed?

When the team came and told you about the ceilings did they talk about keeping your doors closed at night?

Since the screening have you been keeping your doors closed or open?

For those who have changed their behaviour: Why have you changed what you do with your doors?

Perception of intervention on appearance of house

Since the ceiling was installed have you made any other changes to your house? *If yes then probe*

- *Probe:* what changes? Why did you make these changes?

Have you made any changes to improve the ceiling since it was installed?

- *If yes, probe:* What changes? How have they made things better?
- *If no, probe:* Do you think there are any changes that could be made to improve the ceiling?

What about the masonry? Has it been done tidily or does it look a bit of a mess? If it is mess, how is it messy?

What colour is the netting that has been used for your screens?

What do you think about this colour? *(If people have different colour netting then encourage them to talk about which they like best & why)*

What do you like and dislike about the colour?

Overall what effect do you think the screening has had on the appearance of your house? Has it made it better, worse, or made no difference? *If some say better &/or worse then ask them to explain why they think it has made it look better/worse.*

Ease of upkeep

You have all had your netting for x months now, have you had any problems in keeping it in good condition?

- *If yes, probe:* what problems have you had? What did you do about these problems?
- *If no mention of holes, probe:* Have you had any holes in your netting? *If yes, probe again:*
- What caused the holes? What have you done about it?

If no mention of keeping netting clean, probe:

- Has the ceiling stayed clean?
- *If no, probe:* how long after it was installed did it get dirty? Have you done anything about it? *(If nothing then probe again:* what would you like to do about it & why haven't you done it?)
- *If yes, probe:* how long do you think it will stay clean? Have you thought about what you will do when it gets dirty?

Replacement

From your experiences over the past x months, how long do you think it might be before you need to have a new netting ceiling?

Is this type of netting available locally?

- *If no, probe:* is there something else that could be used instead? *(If yes: How much would it cost to buy this material & cover your ceiling?)*
- *If yes, probe:* how much would it cost to buy the netting to cover your ceiling?

How much do you think it would cost to put up new netting when these ceilings wear out? How does this price compare to the price of a mosquito net?

How do these ceilings compare to a mosquito net, are they better, worse or just different?

(Try & get a discussion going among the participants about the differences and similarities between a mosquito net and the ceilings and ask if they are worth more money than a net or not & probe why)

In summary

Overall what are the good things about the ceilings?

Have you had any other problems with the ceilings or any concerns about them?

Do you have any questions for us?



SCREENING DAMAGE AND DURABILITY SENSITISATION

Goal:

To inform all the occupants of study intervention houses (full screening and screened ceilings) of guidelines that, if followed, will help to prevent damage and will maximize the durability and effectiveness of the screening against mosquito house entry.

Background:

The major objective of the STOPMAL study is to determine whether screening or installing netting ceilings in houses in 11 residential blocks in Farafenni town and in surrounding peri-urban villages can substantially reduce exposure to malaria vectors compared to current practise (untreated bed nets). The effectiveness of screening and netting ceilings will in part be determined by its durability.

The guidelines to limiting screening damage are in two parts. This side of the page refers to houses with screened ceilings and the reverse side refers to fully screened houses.

The STOPMAL team will be making repairs to the netting if it is damaged before the rainy season, but after June 26th no further repairs will be made. If the netting is damaged after this time you are free to make repairs yourself but the STOPMAL team will take no responsibility for this, though they will provide patches of material for this purpose.

CEILINGS

The ceilings have been designed to prevent any mosquitoes that enter your house from the roof space or through the eaves from entering into your room space. They have been installed below the eave gap under a wooden batten and (will be) completely sealed by mortar. However, damage to the ceiling, particularly to the netting, will make it easier for mosquitoes to enter your house.

To minimize the damage to your ceiling and to get the most effective protection against mosquitoes, please follow these guidelines:

- If you have doors and/or windows in your house, keep these closed at night as these will further protect you from mosquitoes.
- It is important to be careful when carrying sharp or pointed tools or other household objects in the house. The netting is quite strong but it will be torn if a sharp object cuts it.
- Do not store objects on top of the wood that holds down the ceiling, and do not hang things from this wood, either directly or from a nail. This will weaken the wood over time and create gaps around the wood that mosquitoes could pass through. Hammering a nail into the wood could make the plaster below it fall out. This may also result in gaps that mosquitoes could pass through.
- Do not hang anything from the plywood in the middle of the ceiling.

DOORS & WINDOWS

The doors (and windows) have been designed to close securely in the door frames and not leave any gaps for mosquitoes to enter your house. However, damage to the doors (and windows), particularly to the netting, will make it easier for mosquitoes to enter your house.

To minimize the damage to your doors (and windows) and to get the most effective protection against mosquitoes, please follow these guidelines:

- Doors should be kept shut but not locked, throughout the day where possible. This prevents mosquitoes and other flies from entering the house in the day and then staying indoors to bite you at night. The purpose of the elastic rope is to help to close the door. Any windows should also be kept shut during the day wherever possible.
- Doors should be shut and the catch put on to lock the door at night, once everyone is inside the house. The catch helps to keep the door tightly closed which prevents mosquitoes from entering.
- When opening and closing the doors it is important to use the handles to push and pull the doors. Do not push on the netting to open the door because it will tear away from the door. If your hands are full and you cannot use the handle, use the kickboard instead to open the door with your foot.
- Small children should push on the kickboard or on the lowest wooden bar to open the door.
- If someone inside the house has put the catch on the door, they should tell anyone who wants to enter the house to wait before they try to open the door until the person inside has released the catch.
- It is important to be careful when carrying sharp or pointed tools or other household objects in and out of the house. The netting is quite strong but it will be torn if a sharp object cuts it.

Group Discussion Topic Guide: Fully Screened Houses
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After the introductions, but before starting the discussion, check that all the participants are living in a fully screened house.

How long has your house had the screening?

Effect/Impact of full screening

Impact on comfort/mosquitoes/insects etc.

Since having the screening have you noticed any differences when you are inside your house?

- *Probe:* any differences at night – what differences have you noticed & why do you think they have happened? (any differences in your sleeping – has your sleeping been different and if yes then why do you think these differences have happened?)
- *Probe:* has the screening made any other differences? (number of mosquitoes, other insects, problems with rats etc.)

Impact on mosquito net use

Do any of you own a mosquito net? *If some people say yes then probe:*

- *Probe:* is it you who usually sleeps under the net or someone else?
- *Probe:* why do you (or they) sleep under a net?

Has your use of the net changed at all since you had the screening installed?

- *Probe:* Do you (they) sleep under it now?
If yes: why?
If not: why no longer sleeping under the net?

Problems with doors

Before you had your ceiling screens installed did you keep your doors closed or open during the day?

- *Probe:* why did you keep your doors open/closed?

When your houses were screened were you told anything about keeping doors closed? *If yes: what were you told?*

Since the screens were installed have you been keeping your doors closed all the time during the day or do you still leave them open sometimes?

- *For those who now close doors, probe:* has this caused any problems? What problems?
- *For those who still leave doors open, probe:* why don't you close the door? What problems does it cause when the doors are closed?

What about at night? Before the screening did you have your doors open or closed at night? Why did you have your doors open/closed at night?

Since the screens were installed have you left your doors open or closed at night?

- *If closed, probe:* have there been any problems with keeping your doors closed?
- *If open:* why do you still leave the doors open?

Perception of intervention on appearance of house

Since the screening was installed have you made any other changes to your house?

- *If yes, probe:* What changes? Why did you make these changes?

Have you made any changes to improve the screening (doors &/or windows) since it was installed?

- *If yes, probe:* What changes? How have they made things better?
- *If no, probe:* Do you think there are any changes that could be made to improve the screening (doors &/or windows)?

What colour is the netting that has been used for your screens?

What do you think about this colour? (*If people have different colour netting then encourage them to talk about which they like best & why*)

What do you like and dislike about the colour?

What about the eave filling? Have they managed to completely seal the eaves? Has it been done tidily or does it look a bit of a mess? If it is mess, how is it messy?

Overall what effect do you think the screening has had on the appearance of your house? Has it made it better, worse, or made no difference? *If some say better &/or worse then ask them to explain why they think it has made it look better/worse.*

Ease of upkeep

You have all had your netting for x months now, have you had any problems in keeping them in good condition?

- *If yes, probe:* what problems have you had? What did you do about these problems?
- *If no mention of holes, probe:* have you had any holes in your netting? *If yes, probe again:*
- What caused the holes? What have you done about it?

If no mention of keeping netting clean, probe:

- Has the screening stayed clean?
- *If no, probe:* How long after it was installed did it get dirty? Have you done anything about it? (*If nothing then probe again:* what would you like to do about it & why haven't you done it?)
- *If yes, probe:* How long do you think it will stay clean? Have you thought about what you will do when it gets dirty?

Replacement

From your experiences over the past x months, how long do you think it might be before you need to have new netting on your doors and windows?

Is this type of netting available locally?

- *If no, probe:* is there something else that could be used instead? (*If yes:* How much would it cost to replace the netting?)
- *If yes, probe:* how much would it cost to buy the netting to cover your doors and windows?

How long do you think the doors & windows will last before the wood needs replacing?

How much do you think it would cost to replace the wood doors and window frames?

Altogether how much do you think it would cost to replace the screen doors and the screen windows?

How does this price compare to the price of a mosquito net?

How does this screening compare to a mosquito net, is it better, worse or just different?

(Try & get a discussion going among the participants about the differences and similarities between a mosquito net and the screening and ask if it is worth more money than a net or not & probe why)

In summary

Overall what are the good things about the screening?

Have you had any other problems with the screening or any concerns about them?

Do you have any questions for us?