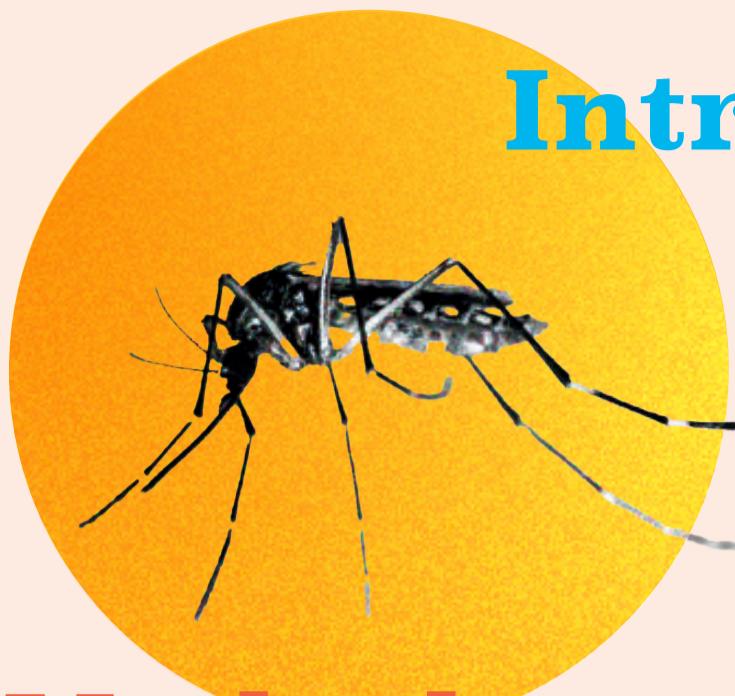


MSF fighting dengue and breaking paradigms in Tegucigalpa

Introduction



Mosquitoes *Ae. Aegypti* are infected with **Wolbachia** bacteria and cannot transmit arboviruses, such as dengue, to humans.

Médicos Sin Fronteras (MSF) is currently introducing Wolbachia bacterium into *Ae. Aegypti* containing Wolbachia in the Honduran community of **El Manchén**. However, The community's acceptance of the use of such a radical vector control method is unknown.

Methods

Between June and July 2023

MSF carried out awareness-raising activities informing the **El Manchén** community about the liberation of *Ae. aegypti* containing Wolbachia to reduce the incidence of dengue.



August 2023

MSF carried out a household survey after sensitization of the community to evaluate the acceptance of the use of Wolbachia for vector control.

Raising awareness about the use of **Wolbachia** continued during the mosquito releases and focused on community involvement in vector control. During mosquito releases, **focus group** discussions with community members included topics such as places for mosquito release, control needs of vectors and participation of the community.

Results

34%

of respondents heard about Wolbachia post-sensitization



"Very high" was the most common response (68%) when asked how worried are you about vector born diseases

72%

of those surveyed considered the release of mosquitoes Wolbachia was "very acceptable"

4,2%

said it was **not acceptable**, due to **concerns about mosquito bites, diseases and effectiveness**.

Discussion

Although the majority of household respondents considered that the release of Wolbachia mosquitoes were "**very acceptable**", the survey results showed that only a third of respondents heard about post-sensitization with Wolbachia, which suggests that better awareness strategies are needed.



For the most part, people who participated in the focus groups indicated that they feel happy about the project. Among the reasons indicated:

- There will be fewer diseases in the community.
- They thought about the community and they took us into account.
- This is a new project that will help the community.

13 focus groups were carried out (161 participants). During the discussions, participants reported a positive outlook towards the use of Wolbachia for vector control. However, the fear of more cases of dengue or an increase in bites mosquitoes were common themes expressed.

