



Agnes and Georgina

Agnes Chibuye and daughter Georgina

In April 2019, Agnes Chibuye noticed that her young daughter Georgina was very unwell. Her symptoms gradually progressed to high fever. Agnes decided to take Georgina to see the local Community Health Worker (CHW), who recognised the danger signs of malaria and administered rectal artesunate (RAS), a World Health Organisation (WHO)-approved pre-referral treatment for malaria. The CHW also gave Agnes a referral letter for the nearest health facility.

After the CHW administered RAS, Agnes walked for three hours with Georgina to the health facility, where she was formally diagnosed with malaria. Following further treatment at the facility, Georgina made a full recovery.

Tragically, Agnes previously lost one of her children to malaria before the arrival of CHWs in her community. As well as CHWs, the community now has a 'mini clinic' to go to before making the longer journey to the health facility. From her experience with Georgina, Agnes is more confident in seeking advice and treatment.

"I worry that my other children will get malaria, but I am now confident that I can recognise the danger signs of severe malaria and take them to a CHW."

Community health workers provide sensitisation on the danger signs of malaria designed for their local context. Their role includes education, monitoring referrals, and the administration of RAS, a life-saving medication which costs less than US\$1 per dose. In rural areas of Zambia where there are huge distances between communities and health facilities, CHWs play a vital role in improving access to healthcare.

**the Mobilising Access to Maternal Health Services in Zambia (MAMaZ) Against Malaria programme partners include: Transaid, the Zambian National Malaria Elimination Centre, District Health Management Teams, DAI Global Health Limited, Development Data, and Disacare.*

