



# UCMI STRENGTHENS ENGAGEMENT WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO COMBAT MALARIA IN SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

The Deputy Commissioner of the Lobata Police Command praised the UCMI project, highlighting the urgency in strengthening measures to combat malaria in view of the increase in cases in the district. The presence of Lobata's health delegate, Dr. Alexandro Vicente, enriched the discussions, highlighting the seriousness of the situation.

In a recent meeting promoted by UCMI with members of the Regional Police in the Police Command, the situation of malaria in São Tomé and Príncipe and the role of the project in the fight against the disease were discussed. The session was considered a success, significantly increasing police officers' understanding of malaria and strategies to combat the disease.

During the meeting, participants reaffirmed their commitment to supporting prevention and control initiatives. UCMI highlighted the importance of active police participation in disseminating information and promoting preventive measures in communities.

In July, UCMI also met with the firefighters and police command of the Autonomous Region of Príncipe to discuss the malaria situation and strengthen





collaboration in the fight against the disease. The meeting highlighted the firefighters' commitment to supporting actions to combat malaria in the region.

In the District of Lembá, UCMI was received by the Fire Station, where it held a lecture to present the project's activities and how the results of the work carried out by UCMI could strengthen the fight against the disease in the country.

The cycle of meetings and training with the authorities ended with the training session for the new agents of the National Police in the Caué District Command,

At the end of the meeting, the new agents appeared very engaged in the fight against malaria in São Tomé and Príncipe.

Agents expressed a strong desire to collaborate with UCMI, reinforcing their commitment to education and awareness on the fight against malaria.

## RAP SCOUTS PARTICIPATE IN AWARENESS RAISING ACTION ON COMBATING MALARIA

The UCMI project team in Príncipe was welcomed by around 50 scouts from the island, to raise awareness about the activities that the UCMI Project has been implementing in STP. At the meeting, the current situation of malaria in STP, concerns about the increase in cases of the disease in the Autonomous Region and the entry of people from S. Tomé without carrying out screening tests were also discussed.

## UCMI MEETS WITH NGO REPRESENTATIVES IN CANTAGALO

In August, a training promoted by UCMI was held, aimed at representatives of NGOs in the district of Cantagalo. The event was attended by 31 representatives, who were informed about UCMI's activities and the fight against malaria.

The training provided an opportunity for participants to express their concerns about the malaria situation in the country, and request clarifications about the project and its activities. The NGOs present praised the engagement team and expressed their willingness to support the project's cause.





## UCMI PROMOTES WHO BIOASSAYS TRAINING FOR PNEP TECHNICIANS

In August, the PNEP entomology team participated in training on bottle bioassays by the World Health Organization - WHO. The objective of the training was to train the team in assessing the insecticide resistance in mosquitoes that transmit malaria, using the methodology established by the WHO.

The training included the participation of three entomology technicians, selected by PNEP, and included theoretical and practical sessions. The activities were carried out at the National Center for Endemic Diseases and at the UCMI Molecular Biology Laboratory, at the University of São Tomé and Príncipe.



## RESEARCHERS INCREASE COLLECTIONS OF ADULT FEMALE ANOPHELES COLUZZII MOSQUITOES IN CANTAGALO AND ÁGUA GRANDE

In the months of August and September, a team of researchers has made a concentrated effort to capture female *Anopheles coluzzii* mosquitoes in the districts of Cantagalo and Água Grande. These females are being dissected in the UCMI molecular biology laboratory at USTP, where their ovaries are analyzed to count the number of ovipositions carried out during their adult life.

The results of this study are crucial for a better understanding of the population dynamics of malaria mosquitoes on the island of São Tomé, helping to develop more effective strategies to control the disease.





# TRAINING WITH SCHOOL DIRECTORS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION OF PRÍNCIPE

On July 24th, an important training session was held with the directors of schools in the Autonomous Region of Príncipe (RAP). The event, which was facilitated by the RAP Health Delegate and the UCMI Engagement Manager in São Tomé and Príncipe, brought together 28 directors from various educational institutions in the region.

During the training, crucial topics related to the fight against malaria and the implementation of UCMI activities in the RAP were covered. Participants had the opportunity to clarify doubts and discuss strategies, receiving prompt and clarifying answers to the questions raised.

## COMMUNITY AWARENESS GOES TO BOMBOM AND ALMAS SCHOOLS

In July, the UCMI engagement team promoted an awareness-raising campaign at the Bombom Kindergarten, with more than 500 students, with activities on the importance of everyone's participation in the fight against malaria.

At the same time, the engagement team launched awareness-raising actions with around 30 educators, including the school's management team, who were committed to participating in future training that could be carried out by the project.

Also, within the scope of awareness raising actions aimed at schools, UCMI took important information about the project and malaria to Escola Primária de Almas.

The initiative proved to be extremely useful, as many children seemed to have little information about the disease. The interaction with the students was quite rewarding, with the little ones actively participating, answering and asking questions during the activities.

*To foster a more participatory environment, the UCMI team offered participatory activities for the students. At the end of the session, the teachers and the deputy director thanked the action, but highlighted that a single visit would not be enough to effectively raise awareness, with the team promising to return to the school to continue raising awareness.*



# UCMI PROMOTES HEALTH FAIR IN PANTUFO WITH VARIOUS ESSENTIAL SERVICES FOR THE POPULATION

The UCMI awareness team, committed to the importance of community health, organized a health fair in Pantufo. The event went beyond raising awareness about malaria, offering a wide range of health services to the population.

Among the services available were rapid malaria tests, tuberculosis screening, assessment of high blood pressure, blood glucose, HIV tests, vaccination, child health care and child nutritional assessment.

The action was in partnership with the Água Grande District Health Office and the NGO Helpo, reinforcing their joint commitment to promoting the health and well-being of the community.



# RIBEIRA AFONSO BENEFITS FROM COMMUNITY CLEANING ACTION



The UCMI engagement team promoted a community cleaning action in Ribeira Afonso, in the Cantagalo district, which also included the collaboration of the Scout group and the District Chamber team.

The main objective of the action was to eliminate stagnant water, clean ditches and remove rubbish that serves as breeding grounds for mosquitoes that transmit malaria. The UCMI team actively participated in the work, reaffirming its commitment to public health and the fight against the disease in the country.



## UCMI RAISES AWARENESS OF STUDENTS AT QUINTA DE SANTO ANTÓNIO AND TRINDADE SCOUTS

In August, the UCMI project team held an awareness session with students at Quinta de Santo António.

During the meeting, the students were motivated and actively contributed to the discussion. One of the suggestions presented was the use of the TikTok platform as an additional means to disseminate project information, demonstrating the creativity and interest of young people in expanding the reach of awareness actions.

The team also held meetings with more than 60 scouts from the parish of Trindade. During the activity, the scouts interacted actively, showing great interest and asking several questions about the project. The meeting also served to verify that many already had knowledge about the project through other awareness raising activities carried out previously, which facilitated an environment of exchange and dialogue.



# UCMI INTENSIFIES STUDIES ON ANOPHELES COLUZZII LARVAL PREDATORS



## UCMI COLLECTS SPIDER WEBS TO TRACK THE OCCURRENCE OF ANOPHELES IN REMOTE AREAS

During the months of August and September, the UCMI field research team has carried out intense field collections focused on the identification and quantification of aquatic predators for the mosquito larvae of *Anopheles coluzzii*, which transmits malaria in STP. The objective of the study is to identify and catalog the species in the aquatic environment that control the population of *Anopheles coluzzii* in the larval stage.

After identifying the predators, the team has carried out predation tests to evaluate the effectiveness of these organisms as natural controllers of anopheles larvae. These tests include measuring the average number of mosquito larvae that each predator consumes daily, in addition to analyzing the developmental stages of larvae that are most susceptible to predation.

***This work aims to contribute to the development of more efficient biological control strategies in the fight against malaria.***

The UCMI research team is expanding its studies by collecting spider webs from vegetation. The objective is to extract DNA from these webs to check the presence of adult mosquitoes, including the mosquito that transmits malaria, in areas furthest from communities.

This innovative approach seeks to better understand the dispersion of mosquitoes and monitor their presence in remote environments, contributing to more effective strategies for controlling the disease.





## EVENT AT UCFM MILAGROSA BRINGS TOGETHER THE COMMUNITY AND OFFERS HEALTH SERVICES

In August, UCFM organized an event full of activities, including football matches, theatrical performances, active malaria case finding and other health services in the Milagrosa community.

The occasion was attended by the community leader, who was actively involved, as well as several women and children, whose presence was fundamental to the success of the event.

Nurses Manuel Cardoso, Lúcia Smedo and Delma also played a crucial role, contributing their knowledge and skills during the activities. With the participation of more than 100 people. The organization thanks everyone involved.



## UCMI PROMOTES MALARIA AWARENESS ACTIVITIES DURING SUMMER SCHOOL COURSES

Educational activities were carried out with summer course students at the diocesan seminary. Approximately 60 students participated in this action, which included the presentation of a play and participation in a drawing competition whose theme was malaria.

The activities aimed to raise awareness among young people about the importance of preventing the disease, promoting learning in a playful and interactive way.





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