



Icebreaker: “Why doesn’t anyone have malaria?”



A suggested icebreaker is a skit (comedy). You will need to rehearse this before your training session. Four volunteer participants are needed for the skit: **1 Caregiver**, **2 Children**, and **1 Community Health Worker**. Please feel free to adapt as you see fit.

The skit will revolve around a home visit by the Community Health Worker (CHW). She/he will approach the household of the Caregiver, who has one child that is very sick with cholera (having many frequent episodes of diarrhea). The other child was recently identified as having a nutritional deficiency. The CHW has come to the household to talk about malaria, as that is what she is most familiar and trained on: ONLY malaria. The CHW sits down with the Caregiver and begins talking about malaria, particularly the signs and symptoms. The CHW continues to be interrupted as this goes on: the cholera-sick child comes up for help with going to the bathroom. The Caregiver asks, “Can you tell me information about cholera? My neighbor has warned me that it is what is making [child’s name] have diarrhea.” The CHW explains that the session today is on malaria. Then, the nutritional-deficient child walks up and it sparks the Caregiver’s mind to ask, “Can you tell me what foods I can cook or what I can do to help [child’s name]. He/she is so weak, but his/her belly sticks very far out. I was told that she/he has an iron deficiency. Do you think that is it?” CHW says in response, “No, I am here to talk about malaria, as I already said!” The CHW gets more and more frustrated as the conversation progresses. The Caregiver is more focused on the child with cholera and continues to ask, “Isn’t there anything you can help me with? What am I supposed to do?” Frustrated, the last phrase said by the CHW as she/he walks away from the house (should be screamed in a frustrated tone), is **“Why doesn’t anyone have malaria in this household?!!!”**



Key Message: This skit is an exaggerated demonstration for the need for tailored messaging at the household level. Every child is different and the education, care, and services provided should be tailored to meet the needs of each child. At the household level, this is the founding principle for the Parenting Map: to give an overall picture of each individual child to better address their specific needs and not deliver a ‘generic’ response and/or intervention. The skit also emphasizes the need for broad and continuous training of the volunteers/staff that work within a program, to keep all involved knowledgeable on the most up-to-date and relevant information. Additionally, this comical representation highlights the necessity in program flexibility, particularly in the case of child status monitoring.