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Anopheles go outdoor - to beat bednet 'trick'

By **ABDULWAKIL SAIBOKO**

SCIENTISTS have called for more push in the war against malaria apart from increasing the use of insecticide treated mosquito bednets and indoor residual spraying.

Increased use of treated bednets and indoor spraying have managed to reduce significantly anopheles mosquitoes, a type (order) said to be responsible for transmitting malaria parasites.

However, scientists contend that the fight against malaria vectors should not be confined indoors because people are still being infected through mosquito bites outside their homes.

The Ifakara Health Institute (IHI) Chief Research Scientist, Dr Honorat Masanja, says a recent study shows that anopheles

mosquitoes found indoors have declined significantly.

He said the types of mosquitoes that were mostly being captured indoors in areas using treated bednets and spraying are Aedes or Culex.

He said the findings apparently seem to show the threat to people working at night outside their homes, as well as those staying outside until late hours.

Dr Masanja said IHI was now manufacturing mosquito traps to be used outdoors as a further step to eliminate malaria parasite carrying mosquitoes.

The Director General for the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology, Dr Hassan Mshinda, noted that they were still working on the changing behaviour of the anopheles mosquitoes and that more studies would be conducted on the matter.

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