



The team, including community health workers, involved in the antimalarial efficacy study in Djibouti. Photo credit: WHO/M. Farah

23 April 2024– For the first time in Djibouti, a study has been conducted to evaluate the efficacy of first-line antimalarials. The therapeutic efficacy study (TES), which ended in April 2024, aimed to assess the commonly used antimalarial treatment in Djibouti, artemether-lumefantrine. The results may lead to a review of the national malaria treatment protocol.

Each patient in the study was observed for a follow-up period of 28 days. Rigorous patient follow-up and monitoring is essential to reduce loss of follow-up, which would compromise the success of such a study.

To achieve this, 3 community health workers were trained to be part of the TES team. The community health workers were fundamental to the TES, because of their deep knowledge of the target municipality for the study and their dedication to their role.

The trio worked tirelessly to accompany patients from their homes to the study site, day and night, for medication, and to coordinate appointments for each patient. Below, one of these community agents shares a typical day during the study period.

The research protocol was approved by the local and regional ethics committee and clearly outlines patient inclusion and exclusion criteria, which were adhered to strictly.

### **A day in the life of a community worker supporting an antimalarial efficacy study**

