3.7 Data collection methods and instruments

Questionnaire

An interviewer-administered, pre-tested structured questionnaire in Arabic (Appendix A) collects demographic data, blood group,residence, displacement status, travel history, bed-net use, previous malaria and symptoms. Data collectors

will be laboratory staff

Laboratory procedures

- Sample collection: after consent for the thick and thin films .
- Slide preparation and staining
- Light microscopy (species identification): films read under a light microscope Species and stage are identified on the thin film, with the

thick film used to detect low-density and mixed infections. Parasites are counted against 200 white blood cells for density.

Mixed infection rule: a film is reported as mixed only when two species are each clearly identified by the reader, on the thin film or in both films

Laboratory procedures

- **Sample collection:** after consent, a finger-prick (heel-prick for infants) capillary blood sample is taken by a trained laboratory worker for the thick and thin films .
- **Slide preparation and staining:** one thick and one thin film per patient on the same slide; thin film fixed with methanol; both stained with 10% Giemsa (pH 7.2) for 10 minutes, air-dried