WORLD SWIM FOR MALARIA FOUNDATION

Bed net distribution campaign in Turkana, Kenya

MARCH – ARIL 2007

DISTRIBUTION OF NETS IN TURKANA, KENYA

1. INTRODUCTION

AMREF Turkana malaria control activities started way back in 1990 when groups of Turkana were trained to sew and sell nets as part of their income generating activities. However the bed nets coverage in this area is still very low (15%, mainly in urban centres). Malaria in Turkana is still one of the most dominant diseases in the area. Between July 2004 and June 2005 more than 12,000 cases were reported in the health facilities in the area.

The distribution of 3,000 nets by World Swim for Malaria Foundation will go a long way in the fight against malaria benefiting mostly pregnant mothers and children who are the most vulnerable group.

AMREF Turkana project received the nets in December 2006.

DISTRIBUTION PLAN

During the planning, 45 villages (see table below), were identified for distribution. Two thirds of the communities are nomadic pastoralists with a high mobility in search for fodder and water for their livestock; therefore most of the villages mentioned are not permanent and are settlements of migratory groups (Adakar).

Table 1: Planned distribution sites

1. Aposta	11. Lokudule	21Lomeyan	31. Nagerwoi	41 Iria
2. Lokichogio	12. Lorus	22 Nakaleso	32.Uputungunan	42 Ngidorin
3. Nagururum	13. Lopwarin	23Napeikar	33.Losana	43 Lomidat
4. Lomunenyana kirionok	14. Lokangae	24.Kapetadiye	34 Ngeu	44 Emilait
	15. Natamakaruo	25. Loptupai	35Ekitedukan	45 Kalokup
5. Naitara	16. Nachuchakait	26.Ngasinyono	36Kaloyaramuge	
6. Nanam	17. Edot	27Nakalale	37 Eroronyit	
7. Lopiding	18. Lokitokeno	28. Namon	38 Ngipopongo	
8. Napopongoit	19Loteteleit	29. Etir	39 Nakatarin	
9. Locheriaakal	20Lokariwon	30 Ikalale	40Loriemet	
10. Nakirkait				

STRATEGY

The identification of villages and individuals for the distribution of the nets was done during monthly clinics. Each mobile clinic was carried out for a period of 10 days in the field and individuals from the various *adakars (*villages*)* would come to the clinic. An educational campaign was carried in all the above mentioned villages. The mothers were advice to bring the Antenatal and Child Welfare cards during the day for the distribution.

Community health workers explains the importance of the nets and demonstrates on how to use..

DISTRIBUTION OF NETS

The distribution of the nets was carried out several months later (March/April 2007) due to logistical problems; inaccessibility of the areas due to heavy rains and movement of the people to the mountainous areas. During the delays people moved and therefore planned and the actual distribution sites varied as shown in table 1 & 2.

Table 2: Actual distribution sites

Date	Area	Number of ITNs	Remarks
11/3/07	Nanam	356	A big concentration of Adakrin were around Nanam, Edot and Ngeu due to availability of water
12/3/07	Edot	283	
13/3/07	Ngeu	242	
14/3/07	Lorus	258	While others descended from Mogila ranges to Lokichoggio, Lopiding and Napopong for services attracted by free nets
2/4/07	Napopong	396	
3/4/07	Lopiding	692	
5/4/07	Lokichoggio	324	
7/4/07	Aposta	237	Composed of the Songot ranges group of Adakarin
8/4/07	Nakururum	212	
	Total	**3000**	

ACHIEVEMENTS

Increasing the number of mothers, children and pregnant women with insecticides treated nets by 3,000 specifically in the nomadic community where the bed net coverage was very low is a great boost towards the reduction of malaria.

Smiles all over. No more malaria! No more mosquitoes

Distributing the nets primarily to mothers with Antenatal Clinic (ANC) and Child Welfare Clinic (CWC) cards resulted in great care of the vital cards.

Randomized checks have shown that mothers and their children are sleeping under the nets a clear indication that this donation was highly appreciated.

Mother and child sleeping under a net

CHALLENGES

The high mobility of the people and inaccessibility when migrating to the mountainous areas was one of the greatest difficult to overcome during the distribution of the nets and the monitoring of their usage.