

Malaria Consortium

World Swim for Malaria

Free net distribution



Mayo Farm Camp

In conjunction with SIDO  
(Sub-Saharan International Development Organization)

Khartoum  
Aug/Sept 2007

## Introduction

Over the past 20 years approximately 2 million IDPs have fled to Khartoum to escape conflict from the now-resolved civil war. The majority of these people live in squatter areas and formal camps dotted around the fringes of Greater Khartoum city. Conditions are poor, with a general lack of basic services – running water, electricity, limited access to health services and little opportunity for income generating activities. Compounding the issue of poor sanitation and housing in these areas, is the fact that many coincide with irrigation areas, increasing the risk of malaria in populations who can ill afford transport and treatment costs at the limited number of health facilities in these areas. NGO-run health facilities such as the one run by SIDO, offer quality services to the population of Mayo Farms camp.

The Mayo Farm area was chosen because of its close proximity to the irrigation areas, meaning that there is a high prevalence of malaria throughout the year. These nets complemented the nets distributed as a response to recent floods in Mayo Farms. In July 2007, around 3000 houses were destroyed in exceptionally heavy rains and flooding. Emergency distributions of non-food items and 2 mosquito nets per household were made to the affected families. In line with the emergency response, 2 nets per household were distributed. Mayo camp has approximately 133000 inhabitants.



**Mayo Farm camp - note proximity to irrigated areas.**

The shipment of 10,000 nets arrived in Khartoum 18<sup>th</sup> August, and was stored in the Malaria Consortium warehouse. All medical supplies entering Sudan need to be tested for quality control purposes. A sample of three nets was sent for testing on 19<sup>th</sup> August and the nets were approved for distribution on 25<sup>th</sup> August.



### **Nets arrive and are sampled for testing**

Meetings were held with distribution partners, SIDO (Sub-Saharan International Development Organization), the State Malaria Control Program, the SMoH DOVA (Department of Voluntary Agencies) and CHVW (Commission for Humanitarian Voluntary Work). The latter two agencies are responsible for the oversight of Khartoum State activities, especially in terms of flood response. While these nets are not part of the flood response per se, their distribution was extremely timely, due to the previous flooding in the camp, and ongoing wet season.

#### **1. Process**

The planning process was coordinated through the distribution partners, and the Emergency Flood Response Task Force for Khartoum state to ensure that there were consistencies between this distribution and the emergency flood distributions. Discussions and arrangements with the local police force were also conducted, as the distributions of non-food items for the emergency response (approx 2 weeks prior to the WSM distribution) had been suspended due to rioting and unrest in the camp. A major police presence was needed to ensure the safety of distribution staff and equitable distribution to registered recipients.

Nets were transferred from the Malaria Consortium warehouse to the SIDO storage facility at the SIDO clinic in Mayo Farms camp.

Meetings were held in Mayo with community volunteers and community leaders.



**Nets arrive in Mayo – Old technology beats new!**

## 2. Malaria Education

For each location, 2 train-the-trainer sessions were held. The first covered the essential health messages to be passed to the net recipients and the second on the practicalities of the net distribution. Key health messages included what malaria is, why children and pregnant women are most at risk, net usage and the times of year to use the net, as well as the difference between ITNs which many households are familiar with, and LLINs, which are not available in the country except through distributions such as this. Safety of LLINs, care and washing were also mentioned, as well as the protective effect of LLINs for people in the household, even if they are not directly under the net.

Registration of households training was also conducted, to ensure that volunteers accurately registered households, and that registered recipients were aware of the process for receiving their nets.

Guidance notes on the essential messages for net distributors to pass on to net recipients were produced by the Malaria Consortium, to ensure that the essential messages were covered, and that consistent messages were used.



**Key health messages distributed to community volunteers**

### 3. Distribution

In Mayo Farms, volunteers went from house to house to register recipients, in a similar manner to the flood response registration. The following registration and distribution took place:

Camp area	Households registered	Nets distributed
Alyarmok Block 7	500	1000
Alyarmok Block 5	500	1000
Alyarmok Block 4	460	920
Angola Block 4	800	1600
Angola Block 5	400	800
Alama 1	1700	3400
Altawedat	470	940
East Block	170	340

Registration of households took place, followed by requests for recipients to attend the SIDO Clinic in Mayo Farms Camp to receive their nets. Recipients attended a health education session conducted by community volunteer health educators. They then proceeded to the distribution point to collect their nets.



**Community volunteers training on Malaria education messages**



**Recipients line up with registration cards**



**Net distribution, registration of recipients and signing off on net distribution.  
Note: educational brochure on nets**

#### 4. Success

The collaboration between SIDO, Malaria Consortium and the community volunteers used during this distribution was certainly a success, and laid the ground work for further collaborations of this type. There was good cooperation from the police, see challenges below, who assisted with the smooth operation of this distribution.

The timely distribution of these nets, following the wet season flooding of Mayo camp, allowed those people whose houses were not destroyed but who were equally at risk of vector borne diseases to be adequately covered by nets.

#### 5. Challenges

Mayo farms camp, along with most of the other IDP areas in Khartoum city, is greatly underserved for any basic services. Mayo farms is the closest camp to Khartoum city and people have lived there for up to 20 years. There is significant resentment amongst the population at their treatment by officials and international agencies, especially in times of fears of forced relocations. Distributions of non-food items in the past have had to be suspended due to insecurity and threats of violence against distributing staff. Consequently, there was a need for significant police presence through out this distribution, which, while enabling the distribution to proceed, does not engender a feeling of mutual trust between distributing agencies and recipients, and significantly adds to the cost of the overall distribution.

## 6. Appreciation

First and foremost, the Malaria Consortium would like to thank World Swim for Malaria and all the swimmers who made the effort which enabled this distribution.

We would also like to thank the Khartoum State Commission for Humanitarian and Voluntary Work (CHVW), without the cooperation of whom, no work takes place in the camps.

The Malaria Consortium would sincerely like to thank the State Malaria Control Program for their support of this activity, SIDO - sub-Saharan International Development Agency and community volunteers, without whom the distribution could not take place.

This distribution, although planned for some time, also contributed to the emergency flood response by agencies working in Khartoum State.