

Final Report on Mosquito Net Distribution funded by Against Malaria Foundation Donation to Health in Harmony

Background

Health in Harmony's partner organization in West Kalimantan, Indonesia, *Alam Sehat Lestari*, or ASRI, is working to break the cycle of poverty, poor health, and environmental destruction around the Gunung Palung National Park. Communities are incentivized to stop logging with access and discounts on high-quality health-care. The communities around Gunung Palung National Park are impoverished, with an average income of \$13 per family per month and average household assets that total only \$270. Most have little or no access to good healthcare or are unable to pay for treatment, though life-threatening illnesses such as tuberculosis and malaria are common. Mosquito nets are widely considered the most powerful preventive measure against malaria, a disease that kills 1-3 million people world wide each year, the majority of them under 5 years old. The Against Malaria Foundation, along with St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, generously donated 4,000 long lasting insecticidal mosquito nets for distribution among ASRI's target population.



Details

Pre-distribution:

ASRI chose 7 villages. One month before the planned net distribution in each village, staff from ASRI's conservation team went to the village for a "socialization" event. At each event, food was served to create a festive atmosphere and the team explained to the villagers that ASRI would be distributing nets in one month as a reward for their excellent "green" status. Furthermore, they explained that in exchange for each net, the households had to provide 10 rainforest seedlings to be used in a reforestation project.



Families were asked to exchange 10 seedlings for their mosquito nets. All monetary barriers were removed as the ASRI conservation team distributed free polybags (used to grow the seedlings), thus requiring only the labor of the participants. After ASRI had collected more than enough seedlings for the initial reforestation, ASRI began to ask instead for other labor related to the reforestation projects such as the gathering of bamboo and the cutting of recycled cardboard to create mulch-rings. In each case the necessary materials were provided so that the villagers were only contributing labor. In this way, villagers directly understood that they were preventing malaria not only by using a mosquito net but also by helping to reforest destroyed land.

Distribution Days:



At the distribution events, families came proudly parading in, bringing their seedlings in baskets on their heads or on the side of their bikes.

Before the actual distribution of the nets, however, there was a key educational component. Proper use and care of these nets is integral to their success in helping prevent malaria, thus every recipient was instructed on how to hang and care for the net. These demonstrations were especially important because while the nets were distributed with printed instructions, the literacy rate in these rural



communities is low.

Additionally, ASRI coordinated community involvement with a problem-solving game called the “Chain of Consequences” which uses cardboard cut-outs to help physically connect the links in the chain of events and circumstances that connect poverty, sickness, and environmental destruction. More specifically, this activity helps to demonstrate to communities how deforestation raises the incidence of malaria.



Distribution in each village had an upbeat and convivial atmosphere; people were clearly excited to get their mosquito nets. We thought it was also very humorous that at a meeting about a month later a village leader laughingly complained that since the people in his village got nets they now all sleep late.

All of the distribution events were filmed with a hand-held video camera and a short educational video created to illustrate inter-connectedness of these issues. Please see the video at the following link: <http://vimeo.com/6340751>.



We are extremely grateful to Against Malaria Foundation for making this distribution possible and for helping make the communities around Gunung Palung National Park healthier.

Separate CDs of 30 photos per distribution site and of raw footage have been mailed to the Against Malaria Foundation head office in London.



Village	Date of Distribution	Number of Nets Distributed
Penjalaan		555
Dusun Pantai Selatan	29 June 2009	78
Dusun Mutiara	29 June 2009	112
Dusun Sinar Timur	30 June 2009	365
Medan Jaya		312
• Dusun Sepakat Bersama	10 July 2009	133
• Dusun Karya Bersama	21 July 2009	96
• Dusun Karya Makmur	21 July 2009	83
Mata-Mata		590
• Dusun Sukabangun	13 July 2009	108
• Dusun Harapan Maju	13 July 2009	162
• Dusun Sukaramai	14 July 2009	260
• Dusun Sukadamai	14 July 2009	60
Desa Laman Satong		690
• Dusun Manjau	16 July 2009	196
• Dusun Nek Doyan	2 Nov 2009	241
• Dusun Kepayang	26 Oct 2009	153
Desa Pangkalan Buton		463
• Dusun Simpang Empat	17 July 2009	45
• Air Pauh	29 September 2009	204
• Sungai Gali	29 September 2009	52
• Tanjung Belimbing	8 October 2009	162
Desa Batu Barat		122
• Dusun Rembayan	19 August 2009	122
Desa Sutera		1268
• Dusun Tanah Merah	3 September 2009	143
• Dusun Sukadana	7 September 2009	72
• Dusun Payak Itam	9 September 2009	128
• Dusun Sekip		312
• Dusun Sukadana	Throughout Dec, 2009 and Jan, 2010	613
Total		4000

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