

Free Net Distribution

December 30, 2010 through January 8, 2011



The village of Katabi Busambaga near Entebbe, Uganda

Latitude 0 Degrees 3' 51'' N and longitude 32degrees 26' 48" E

Introduction

Three nonprofit organizations based in Indianapolis, Indiana U.S.A. worked together on this net distribution: All for Children, Inc. (“AFC”), Women Like Us Foundation (“WLUF”) and Global Ambassadors for Children. For several years, the Women Like Us Foundation worked closely with New Hope Children’s Center NHCC in Katabi Busambaga. Last year, WLUF purchased new mattresses for the children who live at the center. Then, as a group, we worked to raise funds to provide LLIN’s for the beds. In an attempt to achieve blanket coverage in the area, we expanded our effort to include the surrounding village which basically covers a two mile radius around NHCC. We were able to achieve our goal by purchasing and distributing 1,400 nets.

Delivery of Nets to New Hope Children’s Center

On November 10, 2010, Gilbert Masik, our Project Coordinator, picked up the 1,400 *PermaNet 3.0* bednets from “Rohit” at the Techno Relief Services LTD. in Kampala. This latest version of the *PermaNet* was shipped directly from Hanoi, Vietnam to this Vestergaard Frandsen warehouse in Kampala. Gilbert loaded the nets and took them to a secure storage location at New Hope Children’s Center to await the U.S. distribution team’s arrival on December 28, 2010.



U.S. Distribution Team

The U.S. Distribution team consisted of five students from Miami of Ohio University in Oxford, Ohio: Stella Luggen, Vonnetta Ridley, Monique Mayer, Abby Hillyard, Elizabeth Lorenzen and their group leader, Khone Saysana from Global Ambassadors for Children in Indianapolis, IN.

Distribution Organization and Schedule

We planned to meet the people of Katabi Busambaga at NHCC on the first day to explain the distribution process and to hold the educational training portion of our distribution.

After this, we broke down the areas of distribution and planned to do one area per day. Our goal was to go from home-to home and compile our distribution data along the way. If a person was to receive a net(s), they had to be at home with their family for our census. We would also be able to help them hang their nets or to answer additional questions. We would open each packaged net upon delivery to prevent littering and to ensure the net would be used and not resold at the market.

The Schedule was as follows:

- Day 1-- Dec 30th –Meet at New Hope Children’s Center. Welcome ceremony and introduction to the students and village members. Educate about malaria and demonstrate proper net usage. Perform skit about malaria prevention and using the bednet in the home.
- Day 2 -- Dec 31- Distribution village and areas - East
- Day 3 -- Jan 2 - Distribution village and areas - East and Central
- Day 4 -- Jan 3- Distribution village and surrounding areas - South
- Day 5 -- Jan 5 - Distribution village and surrounding areas - North
- Day 6 -- Jan 6 - Distribution village and surrounding areas - West
- Day 7 -- Jan 8 – Distribution and hanging up of nets for the day students and boarding/orphan children at New Hope.

Distribution—Days 1—December 30, 2010

On the morning of December 30 we drove in a van with our driver Moses, from “Let’s Go Travel,” approximately one hour from Kampala to Katabi Busambaga. At the end of the long road was a small rusted sign that read “New Hope Academy and Orphanage.” Sitting beyond the sign was a village-full of eager Ugandans, anxiously awaiting our arrival. We met with Mugendawala Godfrey, the Headmaster of NHCC and conferred about our distribution plan. He explained that some of the people were already disappointed because they thought that they would be leaving that day with their net. We again explained the importance of the data we gathered on the number of family members living in one home in order to receive the right number of nets. We were going to give two nets to a home with three or more children living with their parents. We organized quickly and assembled the people in an outdoor classroom. Godfrey introduced us speaking in Buganda, the language of Uganda. He also led the discussion on defining malaria, signs and symptoms, treatment, the emphasis on pregnant women and children under 5 using the bednet and proper hanging and usage. We continued with a live demonstration and watched an educational skit that the children of NHCC had prepared to show the proper usage of a bednet.



Distribution Days 2-6

We could not have completed this distribution without the help of our driver Moses, Godfrey and two of his sons, several older students from NHCC, the village leaders and Gilbert. Each morning we would load the van with bundles of nets and take them to the designated distribution area.



Upon arrival, we would divide up into three teams consisting of one of our native speaking team leaders, students and a local village leader. We would each carry a small bundle of nets and start walking from home to home. We distributed the net(s) based on the number of adults or children living in one home. We recorded this information for future use. We provided two nets to families with three or more children. Some of the people were gracious and let us enter their homes and even stopped what they were doing to let us interview them or help them hang their net. By the end of the sixth distribution day we had handed out 1,325 LLIN's. On our last day, our van broke down and we had to walk several miles back home after we had completed the distribution.



Door to Door Net Distributions in Katabi Busambaga

Distribution Day 7

We spent the entire day distributing nets to the families of the students who attend NHCC as day students and hanging the nets in the dorm rooms of the boarding house/orphanage students. The children were thrilled. We distributed 375 nets on this day.



Before

After

Summary and Challenges

Overall, the net distribution went well. As always, if we had known what we learned along the way, we could have planned the distribution better. Having a good map would have been helpful but we coordinated with the village leaders because they knew the grounds better and the community members knew and respected them. The village people were extremely grateful for the nets and they benefited from our efforts. Many of the villagers invited us into their homes to show their appreciation. It was an educational experience to share their challenges and struggles. We distributed many nets over a relatively large area (by foot) and in a relatively short period of time. Going door to door was good in some ways but it had its drawbacks, especially when the house members were not able to be at home on the day of the distribution in their area. On several occasions, random people would ask for nets but we held to our plan of only providing nets at the front door of a recipient's home. We maintained an accurate list for follow-up. The team worked very hard to complete this distribution and they deserve many accolades for perseverance and for their strong commitment to this important work.

Submitted:

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