

FREE NETS DISTRIBUTION

8 – 21 JANUARY 2007



**REGIONS
CAPRIVI, KAVANGO AND OHANGWENA**

1. INTRODUCTION

On the 8th January 2007 I traveled from Windhoek to Rundu. After an overnight stop in Rundu, I traveled the next day 9th January to Katima. On the same afternoon I met the staff of Katima office. During our final meeting in we discussed the counting and distribution of the nets.



Counting and packing of free nets

On the 10th January, we started with the process of counting in the warehouse at Katima. The picture above shows the warehouse during the counting process. This was a very tiring process to count but very interesting. With the help of Jeane Mushwena and Kahimbi Samunzala, the two volunteers we were able to unpack all the bags. We checked and counted all the nets. On the 11th January, we completed the counting process. On the same afternoon, we repacked and sent 3 000 nets to Ohangwena region.

On the 12th January 2007 we repacked and prepared to send the 3,100 nets for the Kavango region. Unfortunately Parcel Force, the courier engaged to collect the nets to transport them to Rundu, did not turn up. Because of the above reason we changed our plans immediately. Myself and the Katima Warehouse Manager, Obert Mafwila, transported 1,900 nets to Rundu in our 2 vehicles. The remaining 1,200 nets were taken to NamPost to be sent to Rundu in time for the distribution. After this, we put the nets in the cars for distribution in the Katima area.

2. PROCESS

Our distribution process was for the person to initially present his/her health passport. We then checked that the person had not already received a free net from the Ministry of Health and Social Service. If a person had received a free Ministry net then he/she did not qualify to receive another a free net. Those who qualified only received a net after signing for it.



Community member signs for free net

This was the process at all distribution points. The following groups were the target groups for distribution:

- Pregnant women
- Children under five years
- Malaria cases
- HIV/AIDS positive people
- The Disabled
- Old Age Persons

3. MALARIA EDUCATION

At all the points of distribution we gave malaria education first, before distributing the nets: The content of this session was as follows. What is malaria? The seriousness of malaria as a disease was explained. Signs and symptoms of malaria were one of the highlights. The availability of treatment and where one can access it was also discussed. During the discussions our emphasis was on pregnant women and children under five to a considerable extent. We also explained that it is a once-off donation and not an ongoing free distribution forever. Marketing of SupaNet Plus was not left out in this free net distribution process. We inform people who did not receive a net, to buy a SupaNet Plus from us next time we visited.

4. CAPRIVI

Very early on 13th January, we traveled to Itomba. This road was one of the most uncomfortable roads I have ever traveled on. It was muddy, bumpy, and flooded in places. The journey was only 100 km but because of the condition of the road it took four hours to reach our destination.



Road to Itomba

With our arrival, we saw that people were waiting for us together with Sister Petronella from the Health Clinic. We distributed 358 nets.

After Itomba, we started with distribution at Ngoma. The condition of the road was ok. On our arrival at Ngoma, we realized that the nurse who was supposed to be there was not present. However, some of the community members were very active. Within five minutes the community was ready to receive the information on malaria and the nets. We distributed 805 net in Ngoma community. On the same day, we finished the distribution process in Mafuta community with 528 nets. We worked until very late in the night (until 22h00) and finished by packing the cars with nets for the following day.

On 14th January 2007 the cars went into two different directions in order to accomplish our task of distribution. We distributed 860 nets in Sesheke and 604 nets in Kasheshe .



Community member kissing net

Sister Charity was very helpful in the process of distribution. She even sacrificed her Saturday to assist us with distribution of the nets in the community. Gary and Vic, our Filipino auditors from PSI, were also together with us when we distributed nets in Caprivi region, and were most impressed.

The next morning, before traveling to Rundu, we distributed 325 nets to the people of Namalubi. Twenty of the 'Positive Living Group' of Tusano also received nets. The total of distribution of nets in Caprivi region was 3,500.

The staff members from Katima who were involved in this distribution were Obert, Kluivert and Patrick. Near the end of our mission one could observe that they were

exhausted.

Occasionally 'controlling' the people in Katima at the free distributions was very difficult. Community members in some areas became angry when the nets were finished. They even insulted us for not doing good work. We explained clearly that we had applied proper criteria for handing out nets and asked stated that further free nets for available at Government ANC clinics for pregnant women and mother's of children under 5, while nets could also be purchased from SMA.

5. KAVANGO

On Monday the 15th January, we started with the distribution in Rundu.



Old and young in need of nets

The first community we started with was Kanjara at the river side where we distributed 507 nets. From Kanjara we went to Tjova, which is situated on the inland side of Rundu. We distributed 160 nets until 2200 hours.

Kambowo inland and the river side were the next places on the agenda for distribution and we distributed 479 nets. The picture below shows pregnant women who were waiting for their late Christmas present, which was a net!



Pregnant women and children

We also distributed to the following places:

435 nets to Kayiraira

58 nets to Tondovo

161 nets to Mushashani

240 nets to Kahenge

74 nets to Mangamba

128 nets to Karukuvisa

359 nets to Andara

224 nets to Shutu

140 nets to Zendire

135 nets to Kamutjonga

The total distribution was 3,100 nets in the Kavango region.

Staff members who were helpful with the distribution were Mashathi and Benedictus. Kashati was on leave in Rundu so I asked him to help when we were stuck. I would like to thank all of them for their input so that this program could be successful. A special vote of thanks to Kashati for being such a dependable colleague.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services as partners in the fight against malaria contributed to the distribution of the nets in the form of manpower. Health inspector, Mr. Haufiku traveled with us, since he know the communities better than us and had already

been involved in distributing free nets in Kavango region for the Ministry of Health and Social Service. It was very helpful in order not to duplicate service to community members.



Health Inspector: Mr. Haufiku

Without his help I think we could have been not so successful. Nobody in these communities was demanding nets. They understood when nets were finished according to the distribution list.

6. OHANGWENA

17th of January, my journey continued to Ohangwena region. As soon as I arrived, we meet with the local Health Inspector who informed us where to go and distribute, which we did immediately.

Centres

Oshimwaku	211 nets
Omundudu	70 nets
Onambwebwe	56 nets
Epundi	182 nets
Oshapwa	146 nets
Ongenga	715 nets

Engela district

Ohningu	311 nets
Oshadwa	50 nets

Okaukdo district

Onamukula	290 nets
Ohaukelo	388 nets
Okatope	424 nets
Eumbu	62 nets
Etaneko	75 nets
Tusano	20 nets

The total distribution of nets was 3,000 in the Ohangwena region.

One of the most important distribution points was the so-called ‘pregnant tree’. It is the tree where mothers are living in order to be near the hospital when the time is coming to deliver the baby. They even say that the first girl baby, who will be born after we leave, will be called Julieth because of the distribution of the free nets!



Pregnant tree

The Local Counselors were the most helpful persons in the Ohangwena region. They even sacrificed time to go with us to some distribution sites. The communities also appreciated their presence.

7. SUCCESS

The roads in Ohangwena region were much better than in other regions where we distributed the nets.

We distributed 9,600 nets in the above-mentioned time in the Caprivi, Kavango and Ohangwena regions.

We certainly strengthened the relationship with the Ministry of Health and Social Service in above-mentioned regions.

Relationships were also strengthened with traditional leaders and counselors who are some of the most important people to reach the communities for any promotional event.

We reached 15,000 people with malaria awareness messaging in the process of distributing the nets in the three regions.



Group of people reached during distribution of nets

8. CHALLENGES

One net per household distribution did not work always. However with the help of the Ministry of Health and Social Services and the counselors we did a good job with the distribution while focusing on the target groups.

How to control people during distribution process was a great challenge. There need to be a working strategy on how to best to control people.

The condition of the roads was not good in general and made it difficult to reach out the target groups.

Dealing with people who did not receive nets was also a challenge. We could easily reach all the people with nets with low population while it was difficult to distribute nets to all people in high populated areas.

Another challenge we could not easily deal with was that the women who were not pregnant also claimed to be pregnant only to get nets.

Thank you very much once more for World Swim For Malaria Foundation who made it possible for the people of Namibia to benefit greatly from this project. Thank you very much for to the Namibia Global Fund Program who assisted us in order to get the nets to the people in need.

Last but not least, I would like to thank ALL people who helped to make this distribution program a success.

Schedule Summary

8 & 9 January 2007	Traveling to Katima from Windhoek
10 & 11 January 2007	Counting and packing of nets
12 & 13 January 2007	Distribution of nets in Caprivi region
14 January 2007	Traveling to Rundu
15 & 16 January 2007	Distribution of nets in Kavango region
17 January 2007	Traveling to Oshikango
18 -20 January 2007	Distribution of nets in Ohangwena
21 January 2007	Travel back to Windhoek

SUBMITTED:

JULIETH #KHARISES

MALARIA PREVENTION COORDINATOR