

Malaria Consortium

World Swim for Malaria

Free net distribution



Soba Aradi IDP Camp
Blocks 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

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 Soba Aradi camp.

The Soba Aradi 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 earlier in the year through World Swim for Malaria where 3400 nets were distributed to Blocks 1, 2, 4 and part of Block 5



Fig 1: Approximate delineation of Blocks – Soba Aradi camp.

The shipment of 10,000 nets arrived in Khartoum 18th 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 19th August and the nets were approved for distribution on 25th August.



Nets warehoused in the airport, prior to clearance.

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 ongoing wet season.

1. Process

The planning process was coordinated through the distribution partners, who we had worked with before on WSM net distributions. The same group of volunteers was used, to ensure consistencies in registration and health education messages.

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

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.



Preparing the nets for distribution

3. Distribution

In Soba Aradi, volunteers went from house to house to register recipients, identifying those households with pregnant women and/or children under 5 years of age. The following registration and distribution took place:

| Settlement area | Households registered | Nets distributed* |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Block 5 | 1496 | 1496 |
| Block 6 | 2437 | 2437 |
| Block 7 | 1446 | 1446 |
| Block 8 | 2476 | 2476 |
| Block 9 | 2142 | 2142 |

* Total adds up to 9997 as 3 nets were required for QA testing.

Registration of households took place, followed by requests for recipients to attend the SIDO Clinic in Soba Aradi 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.



Recipients exchange registration cards for nets



Preparing the net for hanging

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.

The distribution of these nets, immediately following intensive flooding rains, was timely, and well received. Although Soba Aradi was not extensively damaged as other marginalized areas of Khartoum, the complete lack of services including drainage meant that standing water, contaminated from flooded latrines, was the biggest health issue, and was responsible for heightened consciousness of malaria.



Net in place

5. Challenges

Soba Aradi squatter area, along with most of the other IDP areas in Khartoum city, is greatly underserved for any basic services. Very few formal malaria control activities are conducted in these areas, although considered by the ministry of Health to be the most highly affected in terms of malaria burden. Due to political reasons, the governmental authorities are not as responsive to the needs, as the malaria burden would imply. Other vector borne diseases are present, including sandfly borne viruses, cutaneous leishmaniasis and lymphatic filariasis, all of which benefit from net usage.

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.

