

April 2008, Worcestershire UK, Iain Patton

Iain's BIG Mozzi Net Challenge

Mosquito net distribution to communities around Namalu, Karamoja, Uganda

This small success story owes its origins to my 9 year old son Harry who having heard about malaria and how it can be easily prevented by nets, offered me some of his birthday money to buy one. Three months later a total of £7,000 has been raised by our friends and family with a particularly fantastic sponsored maths event at Great Witley Primary School. Thanks also to Mary Wright at Zebra Graphics for a great flier and to Rob Mather at Against Malaria Foundation for the nets and guidance.



In a Nutshell

- 2000 nets distributed for free
- Recipients were mothers of children under 5 years of age
- Distribution went very well but in reality it is only a drop in the ocean – many more nets are needed

The administration and distribution of the nets was done by staff and volunteers of the Namalu Training Centre. I owe a huge debt of thanks to Manager Ilukwol Zacharia, his staff volunteers and his funders Service Voluntary International.



Namalu Training Centre



Ilukwol Zacharia



Typical Karamojong Manyatta

About Namalu, Karamoja

Situated in the North East of Uganda, Karamoja region is mostly a semi-arid plain with harsh climate and low annual rainfall. It is largely savannah, covered with seasonal grasses, thorned plants, and occasional small trees. It is an area especially hard-hit by famine and violent unrest. Karamoja is one of the remotest and least developed areas of Uganda. The relationship between the Karamojong and the Ugandan government, ranges from indifference to open hostility.

The main livelihood activity of the Karamojong is herding livestock, which has social and cultural importance.

Malaria in the Region

Servizio Volontario Internazionale (SVI Italy) report that 1 in 10 of the local population suffer from malaria and the respected Mara Mapping Malaria Risk in Africa classifies Uganda as 90% at endemic risk, 3% epidemic risk and 7% at negligible risk. In addition the Karamoja region being remote and culturally and politically independent, suffers from significant economic and health care neglect.

The Distribution

Planning

Prior to the distribution Zacharia and his team

- Identified and recruited 10 former and current extension workers to implement the distribution
- A SVI project worker has been appointed to supervise the workers
- The extension workers then visited their nominated villages and starting the process of compiling lists of potential recipients and numbers of children
- Interviews were held to confirm eligibility
- Confirmed recipients were given a coded yellow ticket to be handed in on collection
- Initial use of net training was given to groups of recipients

Collection and Transportation

On the 14th February 2008, Iain Patton collected 2000 nets from the Kampala Red Cross warehouse. A vehicle and driver was hired and that afternoon the nets started their journey to Namalu.



Next day they arrive at Namalu and are stored at the SVI Namalu Centre until distribution.



First day of distribution was on Tuesday *** Early that morning all the extension workers gathered at the Training Centre for a preparation meeting. The significance of the distribution was made clear by the attendance and speeches from 2 local dignitaries a parish councillor and the Local Committee 3 representative.

After the formalities, a training session was held to introduce the demonstrators to the nets and refresh them on the distribution administration.



The distribution took a number of days as there was only one vehicle available. Two bales of 100 nets were driven out to each village along with that villages nominated extension worker and another to give them support.



Queuing for nets

Below is a list of the villages and the name of the nominated extension worker.

Nakulon distributed by Moni Anna
Nakorisit distributed by Iliko Paul
Aoyalira distributed by Ngorok Charles
Nabulenger distributed by Angolere Tito
Naturum distributed by Loit Mark
Okwapon distributed by Koryang Sam
Nakorete distributed by Aleper Mark
Lobuneit distributed by Lokoi Fidele
Tokora distributed by Loikan Simon
Komojor distributed by Anyakun Kasim



At each distribution site, the 200 recipients gathered according to previously agreed timings. A further demonstration of good net use was carried out and further questions taken and answered. The women then identified themselves with the yellow coded note and these were exchanged for one net. They signed or made a mark against their name of the extension workers form to indicate receipt.

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NAMALU SUB-COUNTY.

LOKATAPAN PARISH.

**SVI/FOAG NAMALU AGRICULTURAL
PROGRAMME**

FOAG MOSQUITO NETS DISTRIBUTION SHEET.

S/NO	Name of Beneficiary	Location / Village KOHO JOJ.	No of Children Under 5 Yrs	Signature
1	Opua Lucy	"	2	NH
2	Natulcon Naval	"	2	
3	Loilo Lucia	"	3	LOILO LUCIA
4	Agan Mariam	"	3	
5	Ilulcol Veronica	"	1	
6	Ilulcol Lina	"	1	
7	Homongin Mary	"	2	
8	Achulca Martina	"	2	
9	Looyolo William	"	3	
10	Apuye John	"	1	John
11	Lowanyang Esse	"	3	
12	Nalcut Rebecca	"	3	Rebecca
13	Longoli Anna	"	2	
14	Nangiro Maria	"	2	
15	Iriama toto Aloyolo	"	3	
16	Angella toto Anaper	"	2	
17	Makuk	"	2	
18	Dowan	"	1	
19	Nayor	"	1	
20	holem	"	2	
21	holem Onyang toto Alosike	"	3	
22	Nalem Regina	"	3	
23	Nangiro Maria	"	1	
24	Lowalan Alice	"	2	
25	Maruk Anna	"	2	

There was huge excitement both from the extension workers and the net recipients. The women were so delighted to be given something. There was much singing and dancing and it was very humbling. Next are some of the photos taken at two of the distributions. See the video for a taste of the jubilation!



What is next?

Zacharia and his team make weekly visits to the recipient parishes. Zacharia will now add monitoring of net use to their activity list. FOAG and SVI have a long term commitment to this region including annual visits from the UK to the Namalu agricultural demonstration project which is our key focus. Net use feedback will be undertaken and will of course be included in future annual FOAG monitoring visits.

In Conclusion

As I said before, 2000 nets in a community of 35,000 is a drop in the ocean. However, this has been an invaluable and positive net distribution trial. The foundation is now established to get more of these simple and cheap lifesaving nets out to people whose lives will be transformed by an investment of £3. All donations to:

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