

POST – DISTRIBUTION REPORT OF 20,000 UNITS OF INSECTICIDE TREATED LONG LASTING MOSQUITO NETS BY VASS MEDICAL FOUNDATION TO MALARIA NO MORE AND AGAINST MALARIA FOUNDATION.

June 2008



Before the distribution proper started, the President of Vass Medical Foundation, Dr. Victor Ojeanelo, assisted by the President of Malaria Parasite: Africa Fights Back Mr. Ben Nnolum drafted in by USAID NetMark to render some technical inputs, lectured the personnel of Vass Medical Foundation on distribution Techniques/procedure to be followed in the various distribution centres as differences in the locations warrants different parameters of distribution techniques which includes recipients forming long straight queues before receiving, some in their hospital beds, some while seated etc, this briefing or lecture was done on the 15th May 2008. Data collection tools were conceptualized and formatted through the help of the USAID representative and copies given to the personnel of Vass Medical Foundation.

The distribution was meant for five major sites namely, Afuze Referral Centre, Irrua Specialist (Teaching) Hospital, Modic Medical Centre, Jossie Russell Children's Health Centre which also encompassed the following hospitals within the city of Benin, Central (Specialist) Hospital, Faith Medical Centre, and Stella Obasanjo Children Health Centre.

Also, the Government of Edo State of Nigeria where most of the distribution took place and officials of each of the Local Government Areas including those in Ago-Iwoye where the sites are located were fully involved in the distribution process. In Edo State in particular the Commissioner for Health was personally involved, also involved in sensitizing the people was the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Edo State, Prince M. M. Ogedengbe, the Local Government Chairmen in all the Local Governments visited and their Head of Personnel were also involved in sensitizing the people. Another strategy employed to ensure a successful distribution of the Nets was advocacy visits to the heads of the community we were to visit for distribution a day or two ahead of our visit with necessary tools, by so doing the people were well informed of our intention and hence were quite expectant of our coming, and therefore came out enmass to receive the nets.


T-shirts with the inscription "Join Josie to Fight Malaria" and other inscriptions plus caps were given out to Vass medical Foundation personnel to put on before each distribution was carried out.

See sample of flier below:

Protect your **children** against **Malaria**

Use treated mosquitoes nets for your children



1. AFUZE REFERRAL CENTRE

The first distribution Centre or site visited was Afuze Referral Centre, this was on the 16th May, 2008 where the Vass team met with the Local Government chairman and some of his officials, a brief address of the purpose of the visit was given by the Operations Manager of Vass Medical Foundation, Mr. Tony Ehis Iriogbe, from the Chairman's office the team and Local Government Officials moved to Afuze Referral Centre where a large crowd of people mainly women, some pregnant and almost everyone of them holding one or two infants and some men were also present. The Vass Medical Foundation Team were further introduced to Princess Olose Ogedengbe a Nurse by profession, Dr. Owolabi, Head of Health Services and Chief George Izobo, these three people are the main contact persons at Afuze Referral Centre. The Head of Operations of Vass Medical Foundation addressed the people telling them of the usefulness of using the treated nets and also on how to use them by demonstrating the technique of hanging the nets on their beds to them. The Vass team then asked the people to form a single line, while some staff of Vass Medical Foundation were writing the names, age, address etc of the recipients; others were controlling the crowd while the rest were giving out the nets to pregnant women and children below the age of five. See pictures below:



CROWD AT AFUZE REFERRAL CENTRE WITH VASS TEAM



PREGNANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN BEING GIVEN NETS AT AFUZE CENTRE

At Afuze Referral Centre on the 16th/May/2008, about 1,800 Nets were given out, the distribution process was quite orderly as the women and children maintained a straight line that made the work easier for the Vass team. As a result of the successful distribution at Afuze Referral Centre and due to the need to give more nets to people who could not receive on day one, Vass Medical Foundation team decided to return to Afuze for a second time and a date of 25th May, 2008 was fixed. The date was chosen to allow our team members from the United Kingdom in the persons of Sir Arthur Edwards, Oliver of the Sun Newspapers, Josie Russell and her friend Sion to join in the exercise. On the 25th we were all at Afuze on time and the team went to work immediately, this time we concentrated on women and children who were on admission at the hospital for the treatment of Malaria. Instead of asking them to form a straight line, we attended to them from bed to bed while their names were being taken down by staff, a total of about 1,427 nets were distributed on the second visit to Afuze, other staff members were in collaboration with the UK team teaching the women on how to use the nets by displaying them on the hospital beds for them to see. See picture below:



DISPLAYED TREATED NET AT AFUZE, JOSIE WITH CHILDREN/WOMEN



JOSIE RUSSELL GIVING NETS TO PREGNANT WOMEN AT AFUZE

2. IRRUA SPECIALIST HOSPITAL

The next distribution centre visited was the Specialist Hospital at Irrua which is about 110 kilometers from Benin-City. We were there for two consecutive days that is on the 19th and 20th of May, 2008. We met with the CMD, Prof. Akpede, his assistant, Dr. Okogbeni who is the main facilitator at Irrua. After the usual introduction of staff, we went round various wards in the hospital, being a Teaching/Specialist hospital, it is quite a large, such wards as Pediatric, Post Natal, Neo Natal, Incubation centre etc were visited and Nets given out to pregnant women, nursing mothers and infants, mainly sick ones below the age of five were given treated mosquito nets. Please see pictures below.



AT THE PEADIATRIC WARD OF IRRUA TEACHING HOSPITAL



PREMATURE BABIES UNIT AT IRRUA TEACHING HOSPITAL WITH STAFF



VASS TEAM REGISTERING NURSING MOTHERS AT IRRUA TEACHING HOSP.

From the teaching hospital, we went to the surrounding villages namely, Eko-Ewu, Idunwele-Ewu, Ehanlen-Ewu, Ihenwen-Ewu, Eguare-Ewu, where we went from house to house distributing the nets. The villagers were very happy to receive us in their houses and we used the opportunity to explain how to use the nets. In all we distributed a total of 1,850 in Irrua and the surrounding villages in our first visit. See pictures taken in some of the villages visited.



VASS TEAM WITH SOME VILLAGERS IN ONE OF THE VILLAGES VISITED



HELPING A PREGNANT WOMAN TO SET UP HER NET IN HER BEDROOM



VASS TEAM ENTERING ONE OF THE HOUSES IN A VILLAGE

Our second visit to Irrua took us to the Local Government headquarters of Esan Central Local Government Area. We met a very large crowd of enthusiastic women, children and men; the large crowd was partly due to the fact that a day earlier, the local government authority had instructed a town crier to announce to the whole community of our intending visit to distribute treated mosquito nets free. We were introduced to the community as usual and we made the women and children to form five straight lines where names, addresses, age, gender etc were collected from them and nets given out to those pregnant and children below five years of age, it was quite hectic on this day due to the large crowd and we were able to give out a total of 3,120 nets. Please see picture below.



CROWD AT ESAN CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT, IRRUA

3. MODIC MEDICAL CENTRE

Our next distribution site was Modic Medical Centre located in the centre of Benin-City; this was on the 21st/May/2008. The Medical Director, Dr. Osaghae who also is our contact person, addressed the women and children who were already gathered as the day we visited was the Anti-Natal day of the clinic; hence so many women were present. The distribution was done inside the hospital with the entrance doors manned by hired security personnel to prevent men from the town from entering the clinic as a large crowd of mainly men were gathered outside the clinic. We were able to give out about 2,340 treated nets to deserving recipients that is pregnant women and children below five, it was quite orderly and the women expressed satisfaction with the gift. See picture below.



DR. OSAGHAE, MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF MODIC MED.C. WITH VASS TEAM



GIVING NETS TO CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM MALARIA AT MODIC MED.C.

On the 26th of May, 2008, the Vass team in the company of the Commissioner for Health, Edo State, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Edo State, Mr. Ben Nnolum of Malaria Parasite: Africa Fights Back, a Representative of USAID NetMark and the team from the United Kingdom went to Faith Medical Centre, Stella Obasanjo Children's health and the Central (Specialist) Hospital all in Benin-City where about 3,013 nets were given out to pregnant women, nursing mothers and infants below five years old. Please see photographs showing our visit to each of the aforementioned clinics.



ARRIVAL AT STELLA OBASANJO WOMEN AND CHILDREN HOSPITAL



COMMISSIONER FOR HEALTH EXPLAINING TO RECIPIENTS IN BENIN



MR. BEN NNOLUM AND OTHERS GIVING OUT NETS

4. JOSIE RUSSELL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

The 27th day of May, 2008 was the climax of the distribution process because this day was the day that Josie Russell Children's Hospital was opened by the Executive Governor (Prof(Senator) Oserhemen Osunbor) of Edo state. As early as 8am on that day, invited guests including pregnant women, women with young children and men were all seated waiting for the Governor. By 10am the Governor arrived and went straight to the order of business for the day. The Governor praised the Management of Vass Medical Foundation for the wonderful work they are doing in Edo State in particular and Nigeria in general, the governor with the help of Josie Russell and Mr. Ben Nnolum then went on to give free mosquito nets to children and pregnant women before proceeding to open the children's health centre. After the opening ceremony, the Governor left and members of the Vass team started giving out the nets to the deserving members of the public. At the initial time it was quite orderly but became rowdy, we of Vass had to suspend action on the distribution until the security men brought the situation under control by helping to control the mammoth crowd before we resumed the distribution. At the end of the day we were able to give out about 3,981 Nets. The contact persons for the above sites are

Dr. Victor Ojeanelo, the President of Vass Medical Foundation and
Mr. Tony Ehis Iriogbe, the Operations Manager, Vass Medical Foundation.

Photographs of the Governor, Josie, and other people giving out nets are as shown below.



THE GOVERNOR OF EDO STATE GIVING OUT NET TO A LITTLE BOY



JOSIE RUSSELL GIVING A NET TO A LITTLE BOY AT JOSSIE RUSSELL C.H CTR.



PART OF THE CROWD AT JOSIE RUSSELL CHILDREN HEALTH CENTRE



MR. BEN NNOLUM GIVING A TORN PACKAGE TO THE GOVERNOR



THE GOVERNOR GIVING THE TORN NET TO A LITTLE BOY

5. AGO-IWOYE, IN OGUN STATE

The next site of distribution was at Ago-Iwoye, in Ogun State. This was carried out on the 30th and 31st of May, 2008. The distribution sites were at the Primary health Centre, Ago-Iwoye and the Local Government Office, Ago-Iwoye. On this occasion, members of the public as well as the Vass team were addressed by the Chairman of the Local government as well as the Commissioner for Health in Ogun State. The people were made to form straight lines while those who were heavily pregnant were given chairs to sit on. Names as usual were taken and the nets given out. The contact person at Ago-Iwoye Nurse S.O. Fatoyinbo was very helpful. It was an orderly distribution of nets at Ago-Iwoye and at the end of the day a total of 2,469 nets were given out. See picture below of the event.



GIVING NETS TO NURSING MOTHERS AT AGO-IWOY

General Comments & Observations:

An average of 5,000 people were present in each of the distribution sites visited, of this number of people, women and children below five years of age were about 80% of the number. Vass Medical Foundation staff were fully equipped for the job with each staff putting on a T-shirt and cap for the occasion, they were also giving out fliers/stickers, the staff did a thorough screening of the people to ensure that the nets were not given to undeserving people and also to ensure that people do not come twice to pick up nets, indelible ink was also used to mark the finger nails of the right thumb of the recipients. Mr. Ben Nnolum ensured that the package containing the nets were opened before they were given to the deserving people, this was to ensure that the nets were used for the purpose they were met for. Also, where a woman had two children below five years of age, one net was given for the use of the two children. In all the sites visited, government officials and members of the public were full of praises for the Vass Medical Foundation team for a job well done and for the novel idea of contributing to the fight against malaria in Edo State of Nigeria. There were a few cases where some women tried to present same children twice or more. They were caught and dealt with.

Our experience at the various sites has shown that more is needed in this area of prevention of malaria, even the Governor whose physical presence was an added boost to the programme said much about the need for more collaboration between the government and private organizations like Vass Medical Foundation to help in the fight against malaria, the presence of the Governor, his commissioners and other officials added credibility not only to Vass Medical Foundation but to the entire project. As the programme has gained acceptance in the State, news filtered into other Local government Areas of Edo state where the people are now requesting Vass Medical Foundation to come to their aid as well. We do hope that with the high prevalent rate of malaria in the state and the fact that we are yet to cover even 10% of the population in the State, we hope that Malaria No More/Against Malaria, through Vass Medical Foundation may wish to consider extending the same gesture of programme to the remaining Local Government Areas of the State.

Given the response and the need, we will also need more treated nets for other parts of the Country.

Also, from this experience, a timeframe of one week will be sufficient to distribute a similar quantity (5,000 nets/day), because of the efficiency in congregating a large community in one place, possibly in the public arena or parks and given the caliber of our personnel, we are confident of meeting a target of 5,000 nets/ day.

Part of the lessons learnt was the issue of crowd control which was a major challenge. In this area, extra security will certainly be needed in future and we shall propose to the Government to provide us with more security to help with efficient control which invariably will lead to more cost financially.

Appreciation:

We wish to use this opportunity to express our profound appreciation to the SUN Newspapers UK, Malaria No More & Against Malaria Foundation for considering our organization worthy of executing this important project. Be assured that we shall continue to serve your organizations with the highest sense of responsibility, integrity, dedication and honesty in realizing the invaluable contribution you are making to reduce the incidence of Malaria in Nigeria and Edo state in particular

Yours truly,

**FOR: VASS MEDICAL FOUNDATION
DR. VICTOR OJEANELO
PRESIDENT**

CONTACT PERSONS AT EACH OF THE LOCATIONS

- (1) AFUZE REFERRAL CENTRE,
PRINCESS (NURSE) OLOSE OGEDENGBE, MOBILE: 08032487825
DR. OWOLABI, MOBILE: 08034410602
CHIEF GEORGE IZOBO, MOBILE: 08037455332
- (2) IRRUA TEACHING HOSPITAL
DR. P OKOGBENI, MOBILE: 08060476179
- (3) MODIC MEDICAL CENTRE;
DR. DOMINIC OSAGHAE : MOBILE: 08037033044
- (4) JOSIE RUSSELL CHILDREN'S HEALTHCENTRE
DR. VICTOR OJEANELO. MOBILE: 08036211538
MR. TONY EHI IRIOGBE. MOBILE: 08037193008
- (5) IJEBU NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AGO-IWOYE
NURSE S. O. FATOYINBO . MOBILE; 08052248806

MICRO PLAN ANALYSIS

LOCATION	GENDER					TOTAL NO OF PEOPLE	NOS OF LLINS GIVEN
	U5	PW	M.	F.	OTRS.		
AFUZE REF- ERRAL CTR	2,918	309	1,445	1,780	2,012	5,239	3,227
IRRUA SPE- HOSPITAL	2,986	1,984	2,134	2,836	2,689	7,650	4,970
MODIC ME. CENTRE	1,564	776	1,086	1,254	1,895	4,235	2,340
JOSIE C.H. & OTHERS	4,878	2,116	3,139	3,855	4,349	11,343	6,994
PRY. H. C. AGOIWOYE	1,860	609	1,044	1,425	1,201	3,670	2,469

DEFINITION OF SYMBOLS:

U5 = UNDER 5 YEARS OLD

PW = PREGNANT WOMEN

M = MALE

F = FEMALE

OTRS. = OTHERS

LLINS = LONG LASTING INSECTICIDE NETS

ME. = MEDICAL

C.H. = CHILDREN'S HEALTH

PRY.= PRIMARY

H.C. HEALTH CENTRE