

REPORT ON THE FREE DISTRIBUTION OF 5000 LLITNs IN CAMEROON

Report by the Yaoundé Initiative Foundation

The Yaoundé Initiative Foundation is a “not-for-profit” organisation with operations in Cameroon and UK. The Foundation aims to improve the health and well being of communities in Africa through the control of insect vectors of human diseases, improved agricultural production and environmental protection.

Distribution of bednets sent by Against Malaria Foundation (AMF)

5000 LLITNs supplied by **Against Malaria Foundation** arrived on the 21st February 2008 for free distribution in 44 villages from 10 subdivisions of Cameroon situated in the forest region where malaria occurs throughout the year, the main vector of the parasite *Plasmodium falciparum* being *Anopheles gambiae*.

Studies in these villages had shown the presence of more than 200 mosquitoes per night per house making it very difficult due to being disturbed by the mosquito bites throughout the night.



Nets in a warehouse in Douala

Conditions of distribution

- The nets were distributed to every family (husband and wife) and for the childrens' beds in each of the villages.
- The selection of village had to be changed due to overlap with a separate distribution programme by the Ministry of Public Health, despite previous agreement with them not to duplicate.
- The distribution was facilitated by the Mayors and the chiefs of the villages, who provided the hangers for the nets of approximately 130 people per village.
- One person in each village was chosen to control and report that all the nets were hung and will serve in future for further contacts with YIF
- Transport of the nets to distribution places was done by pickup or cars.
- Due to rain, some villages in this forest zone were not accessible, so the distribution had to be postponed for several days waiting for the mud to dry
- YIF staff provided training on the hanging, the use, washing and drying of the nets and the principles of community health.



Villagers waiting to receive nets

Characteristics of the Villages

A few people had non-treated bednets before this distribution in about 50% of the villages. These were mostly school teachers and other young educated farmers, but all others had no net.

In this highly endemic malaria area no systematic distribution of nets had ever been planned due to bad roads, so this poor area was targeted for this net distribution.



YIF staff training the people on how to hang up their net

Conclusion

The consequence of mosquito bites (and presence of black flies in the same area) throughout the year has led many to emigrate from this zone, resulting in a decline in agricultural productivity. The villagers were extremely thankful for the supply of LLITNs, so that they could now sleep. By adopting an area wide programme with all the family getting the protection of nets, it is hoped that the impact will be sufficient to have a significant impact on the incidence of malaria and that farming can be improved.

YIF is hoping that this **Against Malaria Foundation** programme can be expanded so that more villages in the Nyong-Sanaga river area can benefit.

Table1: Distribution table with changes of villages to avoid duplication

Sub division	Villages	Number of nets	Changes
Bot Makak (5)	Bobog II Ntouleng Manguenda I Manguenda II Making	500	Manguenda II
Dibang (4)	Beda Ngog-Mba Ngodi-Si Song-Nlend	400	One more village added as one deleted from Pouma area
Eseka (3)	Limouck- lihog Mahomy Manguengues	300	Eseka-village and Song-Mayi in the town where nets were distributed
Makak (7)	Bakoukoue Boumnkok Leplibong Mboglom Minka Mom Ngombas	932	Makak II distribution was made one week before our arrival
Matomb (3)	Mayebeg Nkongtok Si-Pougue	350	One addition
Messondo (1)	Song Mapan	100	Replace Ndom-Centre
Ngog- Mapubi (3)	Bibodi Mode Song Mpeck	370	Replacement Boumyebel by Bibodi a big center with 700people bednets distributed to part of the village
Edea (7)	Batombe Bessombe BonepoupaSM Malimba Ngonga Poutloloma I Poutloloma II	748	Replacement
AkomII (2)	Evemvok Nko'Ongop	200	Replacement of 2 subdivisions where nets were distributed
Akono(2)	Ngon Ovan-Ngou	200	"
Endom (2)	Bikoum Meyo	300	"
Nkolbisson (1)	Nkolbisson	200	"
Mengong (1)	Nkolowon	100	"
Zoetele(1)	Nsimi	100	"
Edzendouan(2)	Edzendouan Nkoayos	200	"
Total	44 villages	5000	24 replacement villages

Planning of distribution was done one year ago. Meantime conditions have changed