

NETLIFE LONG LASTING INSECTICIDE IMPREGNATED NET DISTRIBUTION

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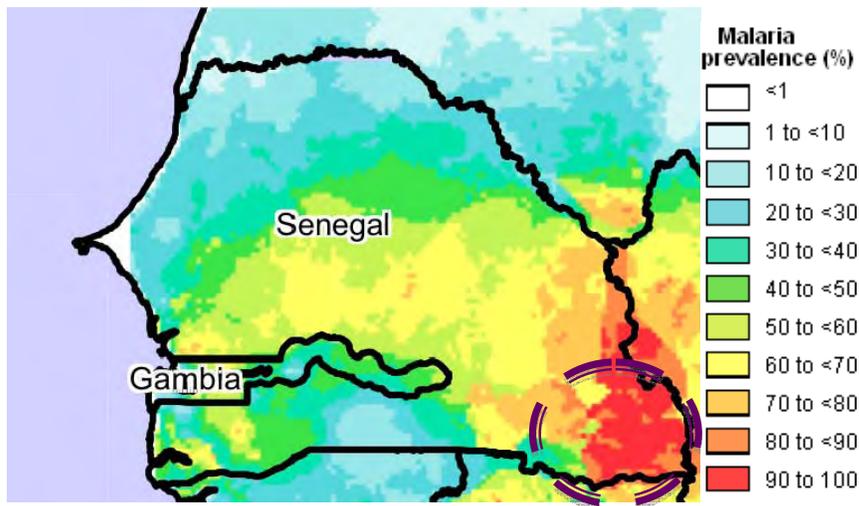


Rural Communities of Dimboli and Fongolimbi

INTRODUCTION

Netlife is an American NGO founded by St. Louis University Medical graduates Andrew Sherman and Jesse Matthews. Netlife is dedicated to distributing Long Lasting Insecticide Impregnated Nets (LLINs) to combat malaria in Africa. Netlife began its LLIN distribution activities in 2007 with a distribution of 1,100 nets to select villages in the Kedougou region of Senegal where founder Andrew Sherman had professional contacts from his time as a Peace Corps Volunteer.

The Kedougou region, in the far southeast of Senegal on the Malian and Guinean borders, is one of the poorest regions in the country due to its extreme isolation. It is also the site of the highest malaria prevalence in Senegal.



This year, Netlife worked in conjunction with local Peace Corps Volunteers to scale up their intervention to provide universal coverage to two Communautés Rurales: Fongolimbi and Dimboli. 4,000 nets were provided by NetLife donors in conjunction with Against Malaria, and an additional 1,000 nets provided by USAID completed the coverage. Peace Corps volunteers working for Netlife thus distributed 5000 nets in 2008, ensuring that every man, woman, and child in the Communautés Rurales of Dimboli and Fongolimbi sleep in LLIN-covered beds.

GETTING THE NETS TO KEDOUGOU

Netlife worked with Against Malaria, a British non-profit mosquito net distributor, to have 4000 nets shipped to Dakar. PCV Peter Treut worked closely with the American Embassy and the shipping companies Vestegard Fransenn and MERSK to facilitate the delivery. From Dakar, Netlife contracted with a Kedougou local shipping company G.I.E. Alcatraz to deliver the nets on a flatbed truck to Kedougou.

The local government was extremely supportive of Netlife's distribution activities, and in conjunction with Peace Corps and some transportation support from World Vision, local governmental officials delivered nets from Kedougou proper to the Postes de Sante which would be home base for the effort.



PCVs Katharine Stones, Matt McLaughlin and Peace Corps Driver Adama Diow deliver nets to the newly built Poste de Santé at Dimboli

CENSUS TAKING

The Senegales health infrastructure consists of Regional Hospitals, Districts Sanitaires, and at the local level, Postes de Santes responsible for a catchement zone of about 5000 people in roughly 20 villages. Each Poste de Sante is led by an Infirmier Chef du Poste (ICP) who is in charge of a network of health extension agents (relais) in the surrounding villages. The largest vilages in each catchment zone may also have a Case de Sante where local relais provide basic medicines - paracetamol, co-trimoxazole, and other drugs that do not require a visit to the ICP.



PCV Matt McLaughlin works with ICP Tonkara to develop a distribution plan for the Poste de Sante de Dimboli

Netlife worked with the local relais to gather census data for the two catchment zones served. PCVs Robyn D'Avignon, Steven Wood, and Matt McLaughlin held trainings with the ICPs and the local relais to enable them to take census data, identifying the number of nets existent in the villages, the number of beds without nets, and the number of pregnant women and infants (necessary for national reporting on bed net activities and for USAID's prioritization). Data from these censuses was aggregated and analyzed by the ICPs and PCVs, and a distribution plan was drawn up with specific emphasis on the logistics of distributing to the more remote villages.



Local relais Ibrahima Souare carries a rice sack full of mosquito nets down the mountain from Niagalan to Wassaya, a village of 150 in the valley.

DISTIBUTION AND EDUCATION

With the distribution plan in place, a distribution team of PCVs installed at the Poste de Sante and began the work of getting the mosquito nets out to the population. In order to reinforce the legitimacy of the Senegalese health system, all distribution was done in collaboration with local relais.



PCV Daniel Prial goes over census data with local counterparts at the distribution in the village of Velingara

An important part of the effort was educational. Prior to the distribution, AfriCare trained relais in the area on malaria transmission. Netlife took advantage of these well trained local agents and had relais perform information sessions at each distribution event.

Adama Diallo teaching the village of Thieoun about the life cycle of the malaria parasite



COVERAGE

Netlife provided universal coverage to the catchment zone of the Postes de Santes of Dimboli and Fongolimbi, serving a total of 33 villages and 5 migrant farming zones (hameaux de culture). The total population served was 9,609 people of which 2,742 were pregnant women and infants who are particularly vulnerable to malaria. The total amount of nets directly distributed to villagers was 4,894. Nets left over from the distribution were used to equip the Poste de Santes, Cases de Santes and Maternities and to leave a small supply of nets with the Postes for needs that may arise through the movement of populations over the year.

Dimboli			
Village	Population	Vulnerable Population	Nets Distributed
Dimboli	548	172	246
Madinatou	167	42	116
Woulaba	236	69	141
Bambaya	241	73	125
Togue	169	42	106
Velingara	303	82	173
Bamboya	103	28	61
Yeroya	249	79	104
Malinda	347	101	201
Bowal	166	44	98
Kafori	958	276	403
Lindiane	123	32	60
Maleme	128	31	96
Magnefe	158	49	114
Diagri	161	52	82
<i>Hameaux de Culture</i>	Dar Salam	42	10
	Samba Ndiaye	56	12
	Thiangol Yaya	40	9
	Doukita	36	8
	Hanio Faya	50	12
TOTAL	4,281	1,223	2,234

At each distribution, the nets were removed from their packaging and the name of the owner, the village and year were written directly on the net. This prevented nets from being sold at the local market which has been a problem with other large scale net distributions in Africa.

Fongolimbi			
Village	Population	Vulnerable Population	Nets Distributed
Fongolimbi Dialunke	301	84	123
Fongolimbi Peuhl	563	165	262
Koboye	423	119	205
Kounsi	237	65	143
Lambel	157	48	78
Lesfelo	336	92	178
Madihou	459	131	197
Marougou	389	115	122
Niagonalcome	884	251	434
Sodiore	80	21	70
Samba Galou	220	68	141
Secreta	114	33	70
Thieoun	114	37	57
Timberi	54	12	33
Toumania	420	114	172
Walan Kingui	225	62	76
Walan Sinthiourou	173	47	80
Wassaya	182	55	76
Total	5,328	1,519	2,660

Distributions were followed up with checklists delivered 2 weeks after the distribution that allowed relais to follow up in their villages and confirm that the nets had been correctly hung and were being used.

GRAND TOTAL			
Poste de Sante	Population	Vulnerable Population	Nets Distributed
DIMBOLI	4,281	1,223	2,234
FONGOLIMBI	5,328	1,519	2,660
TOTAL	9,609	2,742	4,894

The government health infrastructure has, as of the writing of this report, not aggregated their data from malaria season, but personal communication with the ICPs indicate a significant drop in the number of serious malaria cases in the zone.

LESSONS LEARNED

The majority of logistical difficulties revolved around incomplete or poorly taken census data. Accurate census data is necessary to estimate the time necessary to distribute at each village and formulate a distribution plan. The census taking training at the Poste de Dimboli was more comprehensive than at Fongolimbi and the quality of the census data was correspondingly higher. For the next distribution, Netlife should concentrate on a thorough census taking training pedagogy, with quality visual aids, role playing, and village visits.

The educational component is important to any anti-malaria program, and distribution of LLINs provides an excellent bully pulpit for malaria education. The logistics of mass distribution of LLINs, however, makes extensive companion education difficult. Also, the Senegalese health infrastructure and other ONGs currently do a very competent job of malaria education. Thus, Netlife should invest in improved visual aids (posters, booklets, etc.) which would allow relais to more efficiently reinforce malaria education during distribution events.

Logistical difficulties getting nets delivered to the port of Dakar and then transported to Kedougou necessitate a long lead time. For the next distribution, Netlife should allot at least an extra month of lead time more than this year's distribution. Should the nets arrive early, PCVs can use their existing relationship with the Governor of Kedougou to request that he allocates a storage facility.

Netlife with the help of Peace Corps and Senegalese government partners has over the last year gained the organizational capacity to substantially scale up their activities. For next year Netlife should target the District Sanitaire de Saraya. Peace Corps has a strong relationship with the District Chef du Medecin, Dr. Youssoupha Ndiaye and working at the District Sanitaire level (6 Postes de Sante) represents the next logical progression in the Senegalese health infrastructure.