

## POST-DISTRIBUTION REPORT

From

African Rural Schools Foundation, U.S.A. and Mutundwe Uganda  
American Volunteers: Rev. Maurine Waun, Nicole Rogers, Michael Glass

ARSF was allotted 2000 mosquito nets to distribute in a public ceremony at the ARSF's school (ABC New Divine Foundation Day and Boarding Primary School) on Sunday, 1 February, 2009, with the help of three American volunteers who arrived on 29 January. The Executive Director of ARSF Mr. Hanan Bulime wanted to make sure that the nets would be on site without any transportation setbacks or difficulties, so he retrieved them several days before the actual ceremony, and stored them at the school.

For the formal ceremony, Mr. Bulime had had a large shelter tent erected for the crowd, and every desk, bench and chair on campus had been carried by the children to place under the tent for the guests when they arrived. Another smaller tent would be used for the program. Mr. Bulime had also hired someone to play recorded music as part of the program.

We also had a brass marching band. They arrived about two hours before the ceremony was to begin. During the previous week, Mr. Bulime had had volunteers distribute flyers throughout the village saying that when they heard the band marching through the village they would be invited to follow it back to the school to receive the mosquito nets.

The band formed up. The children lined up in ranks behind the band. School staff and volunteers followed behind as the band struck up the music and began the 3 mile march, winding its way through all the lanes and pathways of the village. All along the way, people were clapping and waving, and many people began following us back to the school for the ceremony.

Meanwhile, under the main tent, a registration area had been set up for those who came to apply for the mosquito nets. The registration forms recorded names, ages, gender, and location of each applicant. This form was then given to the applicant, to use as a voucher which would be exchanged for a net when it was time to distribute them after the program.

When the band returned to the school, hundreds of people were following it. The people were old, young, men, women, babies, healthy and lame. Eventually everyone found a place to sit while the program commenced. When all the seats under the main tent were filled, people began sitting on the hillsides and on a brick wall along the entry road.

The program had a lot of music, meant to signal to the villagers that the distribution ceremony was underway. So children sang several songs. A welcome speech was delivered by one of the P7 students. A teacher made introductions and then called upon the local magistrate and health official to give speeches about the event.



The children had planned, designed and rehearsed a 3-act play about malaria, which was well done. They had made a stage out of bed frames, blankets and wooden desks covered with bed sheets. They wore bed sheets and paper crowns, etc. for costumes. The whole point of the play was to instruct people about the dangers of malaria and how to prevent it by using mosquito bed nets.

After that, the three volunteers took the stage and did their own malaria prevention talk. Rev. Waun covered all the talking points about how to correctly install the net, how to care for it, etc. and the importance of using it every night. Then the three volunteers did a brief humorous skit about The Sleeper and the Mosquito, to show that by using the net, the sleeper is protected and the mosquito is vanquished.

After the skit, Mr. Bulime gave instructions to the crowd. They were asked to line up in front of the boys' dormitory building where the nets had been stored. Staff members had already opened up the packs so they were all ready to distribute. Every person who had a printed voucher received nets, according to the number in their household. Other nets were reserved for the school beds. Volunteers were on hand to answer questions and take photos as the people received their nets.

At the end of a long afternoon, everyone was heading home happy and looking forward to being protected by using their newly acquired mosquito bed nets!

#### PHOTOS AND VIDEO

The three volunteers arrived with their digital and video cameras and began documenting the activities on 1 February—the day of the ceremony—beginning with a view of the nets in the storage room. All three volunteers took digital photos during this event. During the formal program, Rev. Waun had turned over operation of the video camera to one of the teachers (Joseph), because the volunteers were involved in the program.

Joseph had the camera on a tripod and was doing a great job of turning the camera on and off, videoing the proceedings. Unfortunately, during the volunteers' skit, there is an unexplained gap in the video footage. We discovered this the next day. It could be that Joseph thought he had adequately pressed the "Record" button, but it wasn't recording. The other explanation is that Joseph had already used up the first battery pack up until that point, and then had to change the battery, which is what he was doing when the volunteers were onstage. We know that he did change the battery pack some time during the afternoon event. All the other parts of the program are on the video.

The video was recorded on an Everio JVC hard drive camera. The format of the Everio has a .MOD suffix, which is not easily translated by computer software. Thus, the footage had to be re-formatted into a Windows Media file, which you should be able to access.