

Post Distribution Report: Nkaba, Chikumbi, Zambia May 2010

1. Introduction

- **396 Nets were distributed in the Village of Nkaba, Chikumbi District, Zambia on May 11, 2010** by Sian Roberts (volunteer, Baraka Community Partnerships) and Kelvin Phiri (Chikumbi community activist)
- Nkaba is one of 13 villages in the Chikumbi District: Baraka Community Partnership has been working on various initiatives in Chikumbi for the last 3 years. Their goal is to cover every sleeping space throughout the District with a mosquito net to prevent malaria. There is no malaria treatment available in the District so prevention is critical.

2. Process

- Nets were purchased through the Against Malaria Foundation by fundraising conducted by Sian Roberts.
- The logistics and liaison between AMF and Net Delivery to Zambia were handled by Andy McKee, Baraka Community Partnerships
- Nets were delivered to a storage area in Chikumbi (arranged by Kelvin); from there, 3 bales of nets were delivered to Nkaba by ox-cart and 1 was transported by bicycle by Nkaba Headman, Raphael Hankombo.
- Census was conducted in the village prior to the distribution to establish net requirements. Goal was to provide every sleeping space with a net.
- Speeches were given by Kelvin Phiri and the Headman prior to distribution, covering the importance of the proper use of nets (including the importance of washing the nets every 2-3 months to reactivate the insecticide).
- Kelvin, James, and Rhoda (member of the village Health Committee) demonstrated how to use the nets properly.
- Nets were distributed in the village by James, Kelvin Phiri, and the Nkaba Headman, Raphael Hankombo. Rhoda and Sian oversaw the procedures.
- Net recipients paid 1000KW / net (roughly \$.20) ; those that were unable to pay received a net at no charge.
- Recipients signed a registration form indicating the number of nets they received; those unable to sign their name provided an ink fingerprint.

- 396 nets were distributed (1 for each sleeping space), remaining 104 to be distributed by Kelvin Phiri to another village in Chikumbi.

3. What was done well:

- Net Delivery to Nkaba
- Many villagers showed up for the distribution (but not all)
- Instructions for how to use a net
- Having the village Headman address his village on the importance of the proper use of nets, not abusing them (eg. Using them for fishing nets etc.)
- Having recipients pay a nominal amount for the net – makes them more valuable to the recipient (and therefore more likely to be properly used)

4. Challenges – lessons learnt

- Census (prior to the net distribution) was not comprehensive: next time set this up as mandatory (to be signed off by the headman) prior to net distribution
- Census form should be photocopied and used for the registration of the net distribution (instead of using a separate registration form where people have to re-write their names on it).
- Not all villagers could attend the net distribution (as some were working): suggestion is to have 2 distribution times (one in the day; one at the end of the work day).
- Lesson learnt from nearby village net distribution follow-up/check's is that due to local customs, many people do not like their bedroom to be inspected by strangers (and if it is being done, both the husband and wife need to be present): learning is that post net inspection needs to be outlined to recipients during the distribution – and care taken to ensure that the inspections are done when both the husband and wife are at home (evening).

5. Conclusion

- **Goal of having every sleeping space in Nkaba covered by a mosquito net was achieved;** post net distribution follow-up will be critical to ensure proper use of nets.
- Consider using the Net Distribution gathering of villagers for other educational purposes (eg. The importance of using soap to reduce the spread of disease, AIDS awareness, etc. , etc.)