

Post Distribution Report:

Kasalu, Chikumbi, Zambia January 2010

By Andy Mckee, Baraka Community Partnerships

Introduction

- **250 nets were distributed in the village of Kasalu, Chikumbi District, Zambia in January, 2010** by Kelvin Phiri of Chikumbi Community Centre (CCC) and the Chikumbi Malaria Committee, Andy Mckee of Baraka Community Partnership (BCP) and BCP supporter Liz Cappetta. The money for the nets had been raised by Liz and her friends and family.
- Kasalu is one of 13 villages in the Chikumbi District: Baraka Community Partnership (BCP) has been working on various initiatives in Chikumbi for the last 3 years and in particular support for the community school. Our goal was to ensure every household in the village had at least one Malaria net.
- We thought there was no point supporting the school if the kids were getting sick and could not attend – and worse were dieing of malaria. There is no malaria treatment available in the District so prevention is critical. The inspiration for this project was the anecdotal evidence from the villagers about the enormous detrimental effect that malaria has on their lives.



Picking up the nets from World Vision

Process

- The Nets were purchased through the Against Malaria Foundation by fundraising conducted by Liz Cappetta in conjunction with BCP. We picked the nets up from World Vision in Lusaka who had kindly imported the nets from AMF. One bale of nets contained 100 nets which if you are strong you can just about lift (if you have long arms too).
- The newly formed village Malaria committee had conducted a census prior to our arrival. This was a first for the village and a bit of a challenge. But by distribution day they had every household registered.



Villagers on route to collect their nets

- As expected the villagers time keeping wasn't fantastic and we had a small gathering at the appointed distribution hour of 10 o'clock. My initial disappointment gradually waned as more and more villagers trickled in. It was mostly women who came to collect the nets.
- After a suitable delay to allow a decent crowd to build up the locals got stuck into their favourite pastime: speech making. Various people stuck their oar in but it was all good stuff. The speeches were made in Nyanja, apart from mine – obviously...
- The speeches stressed the importance of using the nets properly, washing them, tucking them under the bed etc as well as thanking various parties for their involvement. We then had a very impressive lady called Margaret who did a thorough educational talk on all aspects of Malaria control.



- Following on from the speeches was a physical demonstration by Kelvin, James and Margaret of how to put up the nets and the most effective way and time to use them.
- The villagers had been given nets before a few years ago – but they were poor quality and they fell apart quite soon, so the quality of these nets was emphasized to ensure people had the confidence to use them properly.

A Committee member discussing the benefits of the nets

- The nets were then given out one by one. Each household was called out and came up to sign and receive their net. Most were given out by Liz. Those who couldn't sign left a finger print.



Liz handing out her nets and James recording the collection

- Following on from the demonstration the members of the Village drama group led by Vincent (a young man who was born to perform) performed a little sketch to ensure the message got home as to how to use the nets – and how not to use them too. The sketch had them laughing in the aisles – but also was serious in parts – a perfect mix.



The village ladies enjoying Vincent's sketch



A dual use net!

Conclusion

- A successful day all in all. Not perfect but pretty good. Some people drifted in after we had conducted all the demonstrations and educational talks, however by the end of the next day 210 of the 220 Kasalu households had their nets. A few households that were particularly large received extra nets so all 250 nets were distributed.
- We were told that this was not the best time to distribute as due to the rainy season food was scarce and the villagers had to spend more time working their plots at this time of year. But there will probably never be a perfect time.
- The atmosphere was a good one and the villagers enjoyed the opportunity of getting together and having a bit of entertainment as well as receiving their nets.
- Liz and I were suitably inspired to start planning straight away a distribution for the neighbouring village.



Andy with villagers and their nets