

**Post Distribution Report: Nkaba, Mwambi and Mwachilwana,
Chikumbi, Zambia May and June 2010**



Delivering the bales of nets by bike

1. Introduction

Sian Roberts, a Canadian Trustee for Baraka Community Partnership (BCP), had raised money in Canada, through the AMF website, for over 1,000 nets, and flew out to Zambia in May 2010 to oversee the distribution of the nets.

The distribution was based around the 3 Chikumbi villages of Nkaba, Mwambi and Mwachilwana.

This distribution was the 2nd of 3 phases to distribute nets over the entire district of Chikumbi to ensure all 13 villages had every sleeping space covered in a fight to eradicate or drastically reduce the impact of Malaria. Each of the 3 villages had provided a census of their population and their sleeping spaces. Our partners the Chikumbi Community Centre run by Kelvin Phiri had organised the censuses and the logistics on the day.

Malaria is a huge problem in Chikumbi and there is little or no support from the government either in the prevention or cure phase of the disease. Few people can afford nets and or the drugs to treat malaria.

2. The Distribution Process

The format of the distribution was pretty similar at each village.

It consisted of various formal speeches of welcome and appreciation before the real malaria business got under way. The headmen of the village were present at each distribution in order to authenticate the importance of the nets and ensure all villagers understood what they needed to do with the nets and how to use them properly (and not to use them for fishing nets – as is common in Africa).

Before the nets were handed out an educational speech was made on malaria and how to minimize the impact ie ensuring water pools/puddles are cleared (breeding sites for mosquitoes), and nets are used between 10 pm and 4 am at the least. This was done by a member of the CCC Malaria Committee.

This was followed by a demonstration of how to put up the nets, to ensure they were hung out when first opened, to make sure they were washed periodically, to ensure they were tucked under any mats/mattresses.

This was followed by the actual distribution whereby each villager had to sign (or imprint a thumb) against their name on the register to confirm receipt.



Kelvin Phiri making a speech to Nkaba residents



The bednet demonstration

| Dates | Village | No. Of nets distributed |
|-----------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| May 2010 | Nkaba | 396 |
| May 2010 | Mwambi | 393 |
| June 2010 | Mwachilwamba | 194 |
| June 2010 | Village headmen | 14 |
| | 3 Damaged nets | 3 |
| | TOTAL | 1,000 |

3. Challenges – lessons learnt

- Census (prior to net distribution) was not comprehensive for one of the villages: 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).
- 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/checks 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). Also T shirts have been provided by BCP for all Malaria Testers/Inspectors for future to offer a degree of officialdom to inspectors.



A villager signing the census register for the receipt of a net



Sian Roberts the donor and fundraiser of these nets with village ladies

4. Conclusion

- Goal of having every sleeping space in Nkabam, Mwambi and Mwachilwana 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.)
- Keep working hard to drive the message home of how malaria is contracted and how to avoid it. This will need on going education to change people's views.



A happy recipient of nets on his way home