



**A Report on Distribution of Malaria Nets in Kapiri-Mposhi
September 2010**

Power of Love Foundation

Our heartfelt thanks to Against Malaria Foundation for providing the grant



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Introduction:

We would like to thank Against Malaria Foundation (AMF) for providing a grant of 1300 long lasting insecticide treated nets to the Power of Love Foundation. A shipment of 1300 nets was received in Lusaka in August 2010 for distribution in Kapiri-Mposhi in Zambia.

Kapiri Mposhi is a small town in Zambia, located about 185 kms. north of the capital city of Lusaka. It lies within the latitude and longitude of 13 deg 59' S and 28 deg 43' E.



Volunteers in Kapiri-Mposhi opening bales of nets received from AMF.

Some of the compounds in Kapiri-Mposhi are: Ndeke, Soweto, Sacramento, Turn-off, Zambia, Kawama, and Matilyo. The nets were distributed to people living in the Ndeke compound in Kapiri-Mposhi. The Ndeke compound has a population of 9360 people and 2722 households. The reason Ndeke compound was chosen for this distribution was because its population is at high risk and vulnerable to Malaria, and too poor to afford bed nets. In addition, the government has been unable to provide free nets to the people here. Lastly, a high prevalence of HIV makes the population at a higher risk for malaria as their immune system is compromised.

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As a result of a grant provided by AMF, 2600 people in the Ndeke compound in Kapiri-Mposhi were provided with nets (as we assume 1 net for 2 sleeping spaces). The launch of distribution of mosquito nets in Kapiri-Mposhi was the result of team work and partnership by three organizations: the Power of Love Foundation based in the US, Matero Care Center based in Lusaka, Zambia, and Shalom Project based in Kapiri-Mposhi in Zambia.

At the Power of Love Foundation, we strongly believe that it is important to get community buy-in/ownership to ensure long term success of such distribution activities. Accordingly, we worked with the officials of the Ministry of Health, Government Clinic, the District Health Management Team, and community members so that they were involved from the beginning in all activities related to distribution of mosquito nets.



People Seated on the First Day of Distribution

Distribution of Nets

Pre-Distribution Activities: An organization in Kapiri-Mposhi called Shalom Project was responsible for the identification of beneficiaries' and for training them on proper maintenance of nets. Identification of beneficiaries took place over a period of 7 days and

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six staff members completed this job. A team of twenty volunteers from Shalom visited the homes of each beneficiary. The Ndeke Compound is approximately 4 km in radius and has about 3,200 people living there. Recipients of the nets were happy to be on the list gave their names willingly to Shalom staff when they were assured that they will be receiving nets. They told the staff that they were looking forward to receiving the nets.

Profile of Beneficiaries: Most of the families receiving nets are unemployed, have very few assets and income and are unable to purchase a mosquito net. They depend on small scale farming and sell vegetables and other agricultural products to earn a few Kwacha. In addition, most of the households visited are headed by grandparents who are caring for several grand children as they have lost their own children to HIV/AIDS.

There is no government school in the area and children go to a community school. Access to education is very limited and there is need for another school for the children. The people in this area are willing to mould the bricks as part of their contribution towards building a proper school or at least a classroom.

A list of the beneficiaries will be sent next week.



***Mr Felix Mwale
Director Matero Care
Centre with an
Interpreter addressing
the recipients of the
mosquito nets in
Kapiri-mposhi at
Shalom Project.
Mr Mwale spoke on the
importance of sleeping
inside the Mosquito
nets.***

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Distribution Day: Distribution of nets took place between on September 10, 11 and 12, 2010. The event was launched by a representative from the Office of the District Commissioner. The Pastor from Shalom Project offered a prayer before distribution of the nets. More than 400 people attended the launch day event including representatives from the District Health Management team and the Head Nurse from the Ndeke Clinic. The building where the event took place has a capacity of 700 and therefore distribution was completed over a course of three days to accommodate all 2600 beneficiaries.

The local Clinic in Ndeke conducted demonstrations on the proper treatment, and use and set up of the mosquito nets. The Head Nurse from Ndeke Clinic spoke to beneficiaries on prevention of Malaria, proper use of mosquito nets, drainage maintenance, filling and removal of breeding sites, and treating of mosquito nets. The Nurse emphasized the negative impact on health of malaria especially for pregnant women for whom this disease could lead to maternal death, abortion, still birth and low birth weight. The Nurse also underscored the importance of proper use and maintenance of the Mosquito nets.



Beneficiaries receiving nets on Distribution Day

All beneficiaries were educated on prevention of Malaria. The malaria education component included;

1. Health education on prevention of malaria e.g. proper use of mosquito nets, drainage maintenance, filling and removal of breeding sites, treating of mosquito nets.

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2. Negative impacts of malaria in pregnancy e.g. maternal death, abortion, still birth and low birth weight.
3. Facts of malaria in immune compromised children.
4. High risks of death to fewer than 5 children.
5. Identification of symptoms of malaria.

As the mosquito nets were being distributed the beneficiaries waited impatiently for their turn to receive one. Some of them danced after receiving the nets while most of them were praising God for this gift. Many of them said that this event will lead to an improvement in their living conditions and felt loved and cared for by the donors of the nets. Some of them expressed a desire to meet and thank the donors personally and wanted to convey their gratitude through the Power of Love staff.

Even after the distribution was completed several people came from neighboring compounds to inquire if they could get nets too. These people had heard from their friends about the free nets distribution and were disappointed when they were told that the distribution was over. It was difficult to convince them that the nets were all gone.

Challenges

1. Since the nets reached later than scheduled in Lusaka, Zambia the distribution event had to be postponed two times. This led to concerns among a few beneficiaries who thought that we were using their names for purposes other than provision of free nets.
2. Due to budgetary constraints, staff traveling to Kapiri-Mposhi from Lusaka, were not provided with funds to cover their expenses for board and lodging. Also, the cost of transportation of nets from Lusaka to Kapiri-Mposhi was higher than budgeted.

Need for More Nets

There is already a request for more nets from other compounds in Kapiri-Mposhi. On the day of distribution, the District Commissioners Representative thanked us and requested that we come back with more nets. Also, the Head Nurse from Ndeke Clinic commented that the incidence of malaria in the area was high and that the area needed many more nets and education on malaria to reduce malaria deaths.

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Next Steps

In November 2010, Power of Love staff will be visiting beneficiaries to gather information on the use of nets and if people sleeping under nets had been infected by Malaria. We will also visit Ndeke Clinic to gather information on the incidence of malaria after distribution last September. Finally, we hope to find out if children are happy to be using and sleeping under the nets and if they have been attending school more regularly due to their better health.

A short video and more pictures of the event will be mailed to AMF next week.

Conclusion:

We are very thankful to Rob Mather and Jane Kuelsheimer from Against Malaria Foundation for partnering with us so that we could make this distribution event happen. The distribution of 1300 nets to 2600 people will go a long way in reducing the incidence of Malaria in the Ndeke compound in Kapiri-Mposhi. We hope to make this an annual event so that we can continue to educate people on malaria prevention and this should lead to the desired impact of eradicating malaria from this area.

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