

# POST DISTRIBUTION REPORT: Malaria Nets – Chikumbi & Chongwe, Zambia Sept & Oct 2010

## INTRODUCTION

Baraka Community Partnership (BCP) is a small charity and the somewhat ambitious plan of covering every sleeping space in the district of Chikumbi with a Long Lasting Insecticide Net was not without its challenges.

This programme was a joint effort between BCP, The Against Malaria Foundation (AMF), Price Waterhouse Coopers Zambia (PWCZ) and the Chikumbi Community Centre (CCC).

The initial plan of covering just Chikumbi with 7,000 nets was expanded upon with the introduction of PWCZ to the programme. With the extra 2,260 nets that this allowed us we decided upon extending the programme into the neighbouring district of Chongwe after consultations with CCC. The idea being that the greater area of blanket net coverage would increase our chances of eradicating or at the very least drastically reducing the impact of malaria in this area. There is no malaria treatment in Chikumbi or Chongwe and little or no access to a medical centre. The nearest hospital is over 30 Kilometres away, however, most people simply can't afford a net or the drugs needed to cope with malaria. Consequently the contraction of the disease is common place here – particularly amongst children - and treatment if rare.



The greatest challenge we had was the process of getting the nets to Zambia. Problems with shipping and customs ensured a considerable delay in the arrival of the nets, and various unjustified threats of charges and taxes created a catalogue of problems. In particular the Zambian Revenue Authority seemed to get their wires crossed in terms of customs duty that is not applicable on malaria nets.

## THE DISTRIBUTION

Every village had been asked to submit a full census of every household and inhabitants prior to receiving the nets. Some villagers were better than others which tended to reflect the efficiency of the headman of the village. Accordingly the distribution process was spread out over about 6 weeks. The initial aim was to distribute the nets prior to the commencement of the rainy season – and hence the malaria season. The first rains this season arrived on Wednesday 27 October with all but the last village covered – Katuba (the last to submit its list) received their nets on 30th October.



*Loading of nets at shipping agent's warehouse  
in Lusaka for transportation to Chikumbi*

The distribution was conducted by Kelvin Phiri the founder of CCC and 8 members of his Malaria Committee as well as 7 PWCZ volunteers. Baraka Community Partnerships has been working with CCC since 2007 but is new to working in Chongwe. CCC, however, have strong links with these villages over many years.



*Nets arriving by ox cart*



*Some villages provided an ox cart to help distribute the nets to their village from the central holding place in Chikumbi*

At each distribution speeches were given by Kelvin Phiri, the Malaria Committee members 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 Phiri and his Malaria Committee unloading nets in Chikumbi*



The committee members then demonstrated how to effectively and properly use the net and then all villagers were asked to come up one by one to sign for their net and then collect however many nets were required for their household. If they were illiterate they provided a thumb print. All recipients were advised that follow up checks would be conducted by the Malaria Committees over the coming months to ensure correct use of the nets.

The nets were distributed as per the following tables.

### **Chikumbi Malaria Net Distribution**

<b>Date 2010</b>	<b>Name of village</b>	<b>Nets distributed</b>
17 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Chikumbi	296
17 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Chombela	311
17 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Lumina	214
17 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Mulando	249
17 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Mukwanka	267
18 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Mwachilwana	345
18 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Manenekela	348
18 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Chibwa	277
18 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Ngobola	422
18 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Watunyama	331
25 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Kasalu village	520
27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Chongwe health post	200
30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Katuba	1,190
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,970</b>

## Chongwe Malaria Net Distribution

Date 2010	Name of village	Nets distributed
20 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Koto	238
20 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Mutwale	128
20 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Stimwengwe	169
20 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Shiloto	149
20 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Susu	171
21 <sup>st</sup> Sept	Mwachikoka	389
21 <sup>st</sup> Sept	Nkondola	323
21 <sup>st</sup> Sept	Musebo	290
22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	Chansongo	312
22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	Pentecostal Orphanage	329
23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	Masungaile	480
23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	Mwachilele	380
24 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Chilikwela	339
24 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Njamu	368
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,065</b>

29 nets were unfortunately damaged by rats and 196 nets have been left over which will be kept at the Chikumbi Medical clinic and distributed accordingly by the Clinic's nurse. Some people missed their village's distribution due to illness or being away so they are able to apply via their headman to the clinic for their net, assuring that they are included in the census. This process has already commenced.



*A recipient signing for her nets*

## CONCLUSION

The distribution itself was also not without challenges. Aside from the difficulties attaining censuses from each village, time keeping and attendance were not always as good as we would have liked. There were various reasons for this:

- a. In Chongwe our distribution clashed with a food handout from another NGO.
- b. There is a certain amount of apathy for Aid distributions – this is because the locals have been let down time and time again by government and NGO's promising but not delivering.
- c. This is Africa!



However, some villages were better than others and when word did eventually spread people turned up later on – or even after the date – requesting their nets. We had to adapt our distribution timetable day by day because of this. We are confident of being very close to our target of all sleeping spaces covered.

*Malaria Committee members and headman at a distribution*

Below is an extract from a report submitted to BCP by Kelvin Phiri regarding a distribution in Chongwe:

Mr. Shadrach Ngulube who was the local co-coordinator for the distribution in Chongwe thanked the joint effort by Baraka and AMF to consider Chongwe district for this important exercise. He further requested for more nets to cover 5 villages in Mpango area within Chongwe which had not submitted registers but had now done so. Mrs Enala Siatwambo of Susu village thanked the sponsors and said that the rainy season was very important to the rural dwellers because they depended on farming to earn their livelihood. As such, illness due to malaria among families adversely affected them because family members usually spent a lot of money on drugs and transport to health centres in search of treatment. Families also spent a lot of time caring for the sick. All these resources could be channelled into buying more inputs to improve their yields, she added. Headman Susu who echoed Mrs. Siatwambo's sentiments jokingly said that he will use the malaria net distribution exercise in his village as an instrument to assess which of his subjects were lazy. Headman Susu went on to add that there should be no excuse of illness due to malaria now and begging of corn should be avoided. Malaria nets are a medicine for hard work he said, amid laughter from his subjects.

The original goal of distributing all 9,260 nets before the rains came was all but achieved. The first rains came on October 27th just three days before Katuba (the last village to submit their census) received their nets. The whole distribution has proved popular with the villagers and we will monitor their feedback over the coming rainy season along with the Chikumbi Medical clinic to see how effective our blanket coverage has been.

