

## **Report from Mwanza Ilemela Lions Club:**

### **Introduction:**

Mwanza Ilemela Lions Club started its operations in 2007. Since then it has been involved in supporting orphans and most vulnerable children through the Hisani Orphanage in Ilemela district.

Another major activity has been in the environment. It has been involved in afforestation in Lukobe village and over 50,000 trees have been planted and this was shown to other Lions Clubs in District 411B with a very positive reception. The example has been copied by other Lions Clubs in the District.

### **Work on Malaria:**

With support and linkage with the Long Eaton Lions Club in the UK and Kids Aid Tanzania, Mwanza Ilemela Lions Club has been involved in the Malaria prevention through the distribution to children aged 5 years and below as well as pregnant mothers. Over 3,000 Insecticide Treated Nets (ITN) were distributed in February 2011. Bugarika Slum Area residents were the sole beneficiaries.

### **Post-ITN Net Distribution and evaluation:**

ITN were distributed in February 2011. The evaluation work was carried out in April 2011. It was linked to the Tanzania Government project of ITN distribution in the same area. The work was done by the same Ten Cell leaders who had participated in the Mwanza Ilemela Lions Club –Bugarika malaria Project exercise.

ITN nets given to children and pregnant mothers were being used. Since demonstrations had been made on how to hang the nets, they were correctly hung by the families.

### **Tanzania Government Nets:**

The Tanzania Government had distributed ITN nets in Bugarika in April 2011. Unlike the Mwanza Ilemela lions Club who had used the official strategy of targeting under-fives and pregnant mother, the Government nets were given per household. They had received 2 to 3 ITN nets per household. Hence it was not known who was the direct beneficiary of those nets. Total number of Government nets was 4,100 and it was the same make as those of the Mwanza Ilemela lions Club i.e. OLYSET from Arusha A - Z Textile Factory.

### **Contribution of the Mwanza Ilemela ITN to the reduction of malaria in Bugarika.**

Mwanza Ilemela Lions Club has worked with a number of Doctors at Bugarika Dispensary. At the beginning, there was Dr George Yamwaka who retired and was replaced by Dr Dismus Simuda. He has been transferred to Kwimba District and his replacement are two Doctors: Restitute Kasaka and Happiness Mageni.

Malaria cases in Bugarika:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Under five</b>	<b>Adults</b>
June 2010	103	54
June 2011	36	14

The ITN nets focusing on under-fives clearly demonstrates a significant drop in Malaria cases for the under-five children compared to the adults. It is further argued that the 4,100 ITN from the Government cannot be stated to have directly influenced children under-five since most likely the beneficiaries would be adults.

### **The way forward:**

The most current statistics from Bugarika are as follows:

Total population:	18,889
0-1 year olds:	585
1-5 year olds:	2,924
Reproductive age: (15-49 yrs women)	7,626

In discussions with the two Doctors at Bugarika Clinic, it was pointed out that the current Tanzania Government strategy of targeting under-fives, pregnant mothers and people living with HIV (PLHA) should continue. If possible women in the reproductive age group should be included.

**Table 1: Peak Malaria Cases (under-five) seen at Bugarika (from Dispensary data):**

Month	2009	2010	2011
January	170	119	266
February	272	91	163*
March	165	205	48
April	161	305	10
May	118	144	11
June	131	103	36
July	140	112	
August	80	114	
September	156	182	
October	160	256	
November	143	218	
December	109	206	

- Bugarika Dispensary started using malaria rapid test (MRDT) for more sensitive malaria diagnosis unlike in the past, where clinical signs and symptoms were used as part of diagnosis (plus laboratory input which was irregular).
- At the same time, Mwanza Ilemela Lions Club distributed ITN in February in Bugarika.

### **Conclusion:**

It is apparent that a combination of factors and actors has had an impact on Malaria cases in Bugarika. Mwanza Ilemela Lions Club in collaboration with the UK based Long Eaton Lions Club and Kids Aid Tanzania plus the Tanzania Government have all had a contribution. Since total Bugarika population is currently estimated to be 18,889 and the total ITN distributed was 3,100 +4,100 giving 7,200 it leaves a gap of 11,689 people not covered by the two projects. In this group are those PLHAs who are most vulnerable to Malaria attacks.

There is still work to be done.