



Newsletter # 6

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In this issue we report on the burden of malaria and on how Scouts in the UK are fighting this disease.

How malaria occurs

It is during the bite of the female mosquito to draw blood to feed her young that parasites are injected into the human bloodstream. These parasites find their way into the infected person's liver cells where they multiply and then invade the red blood cells which subsequently rupture. Symptoms of

this illness for which **no** cure exists includes a very high temperature, diarrhoea and vomiting and children under 5 are most vulnerable as they have lowest body mass and deaths within the sub tropical areas of the world are in excess of 500,000 per year.

What Scouts are doing Malaria remains one of the leading causes of morbidity and malaria in Uganda and accounts for between 30 and 50% of all outpatient visits so UK and Ugandan Scouts have joined the global partnership to fight malaria

As these anopheles mosquitos are active at night, a long life insecticide treated bednet is the best form of protection under which the whole family can sleep .

UK Scouts are learning about the illness and raising funds to prevent the illness and these funds are then sent to the Scout Association in Uganda to organise campaigns in various districts working together with local organisations and the District Community officer.

Lwengo district is the second district in which the Ugandan Scouts have been active. The Scouts carried out the campaign together with the Needy Child Foundation (NCF), a CBO (Community Based Organization) recognized for its great work in dealing with women and children affairs within the communities of Lwengo District, Nyendo and Kinoni as the target communities with the highest numbers of Malaria cases.



District health officer discussing malaria prevention with families in Lwengo, Uganda.

Some of the features noted by the team that are synonymous with malaria transmission included the following: -

long bushes, a lot of stagnant water in which mosquitos can breed, families lacking mosquito nets,



malnourished and vulnerable children and long distances from the health facilities for the majority of the families

Uganda's International Commissioner (Cleopatra John) with a mother/baby pair who received a treated mosquito net

The Scout team managed to reach about 5000 people with messages on malaria control, prevention and treatment. During the feasibility study a total of 326 families with children below the age of 5 and expectant mothers were identified for net distribution. Some 250 insecticide treated malaria nets were distributed and set up in 204 households; however it was not possible to reach all the identified households due to limited number of nets that could be purchased from funds sent from the UK.

With further funds raised by UK Scouts, most notably by 2nd Rayners Lane, Ugandan Scouts have now initiated a campaign in the Masindi district of Uganda where Hampshire Scouts have been active for the past 16 years installing clean water wells in some 30 villages.

Ghanain Scouts At the Gilwell reunion in September, we put up a display about our Malaria prevention campaign and contact was made with the Chief Scout Commissioner of Ghana, Gregory Manful. It is our intention, subject to raising sufficient funding, to help Ghanain Scouts to initiate similar campaigns as in Uganda. In Ghana like in Uganda, malaria is hyper-endemic with 100% of the population at risk from infection and it is the leading cause of mortality in children under five years old and of adult ill health.

Global programme zone Combatting malaria is an activity within the global programme zone of the Scout Association and it has the added advantage of linking UK Scouting with Scouts in other countries. It also helps Scouts to contribute to two of the Sustainable Development goals agreed by United Nations in September 2015 that is reducing child mortality and forming global partnerships.



About one third of the world's population is exposed to mosquitoes carrying malaria and other related illnesses and so undertaking a range of activities including helping with fund raising, your section can earn the Scouts against malaria badge which is shown at the top of this newsletter.

Joining the fight against malaria

If your Section/Group is willing to join the global partnership to fight malaria and earn the SAM badge, please visit our website www.scoutsagainstmalaria.org.uk or email us at info@scoutsagainstmalaria.org.uk. You can also see what is being done by visiting our Facebook page.

Making a model of a mosquito from pipe cleaners

