

Scouts against malaria



In 2015 the United Nations agreed a new set of Sustainable Development Goals for the period 2016-2030 with the aim of '*leaving no one behind*'. Combating malaria forms part of the *healthy living goal*.

Unlike infectious diseases which are encountered in temperate climates and for which vaccines are available, *no vaccine is currently available* to protect against the introduction of the malaria parasite into the blood stream.

As the anopheles mosquito, the parasite carrier, is only active at night, the safest way to avoid being bitten is to sleep under an insecticide treated bed net. However *over half the population at greatest risk* from malaria in Africa still sleep unprotected by mosquito nets which cost about £2 - 3 each while the African region continues to bear an estimated 90% of all malaria cases and deaths worldwide.

SAM initiative forms part of Scouting's *global programme zone* in which Scouts learn about the disease and how they can help to alleviate suffering and save lives.

We have developed a set of activities which can form the basis of one (or more) meetings of Scouts of any age range from Beavers through to Explorers and Network. These activities can be downloaded from our SAM website where it is also possible to order a resource box containing almost all resources needed to organise such activities.



To date some 15 distribution campaigns have been organised in various regions of 4 African countries namely Malawi, Uganda, Gambia and Ghana. Not only do the local Scouts distribute nets, they also help with erecting these nets and advise where help can be sought when bitten.

However in every campaign so far the local Scouts have been *unable* to distribute nets to all the vulnerable families. So if your section is willing to join the global partnership to fight malaria by learning something about the disease and raising on average £5 per head, your Scouts will earn the SAM badge illustrated at the top of this page.

For more information, visit our website www.scoutsagainstmalaria.org.uk or email us at info@scoutsagainstmalaria.org.uk.