



## Newsletter # 8

May 2017

In this issue we describe our links with the 4 African countries whose Scouts have joined the global partnership to fight malaria, report progress on World Malaria day and the launch of activities in a box by Hertfordshire Scouts.

### Uganda

During Martin Takel's visit in February, he was able to witness the 4<sup>th</sup> rollout, this time in Jinja District, of long life insecticide impregnated bed nets (LLIN). Like the preceding trials, there were insufficient nets to meet required needs.



**Malawi** Colin Andrews visited Malawi in February and discussed with their Scout Association how they could become involved in distributing malaria nets and provide advice to vulnerable families.

**Gambia** Jackie Heath has just returned from a visit to Soma where they distributed the bed nets on previous occasions and will now do so again with funds sent from the UK.

**Ghana** Working together with the Municipal Health Directorate, the first campaign was held at Nyame Bekyere in the Ashanti district explaining the importance of sleeping under insecticide treated mosquito nets, how to mount the net in the room and the importance of keeping the environment clean with no stagnant sources of water. After which 100 mosquito nets were distributed to pregnant women and to families with children under 5 years.



**World Malaria day** was celebrated on 26 April with the Guardian producing a 16 page supplement which reviewed progress in the preceding years ([www.malariaawareness.co.uk](http://www.malariaawareness.co.uk)).

Dr Pedro Alonso, World Health Organisation Director of the Global Malaria programme, wrote that 'there is much to celebrate on this day as in the 5 years from 2011 to 2015, the global rate of new malaria cases fell by 21% and death rates by 29%. In sub-Saharan Africa where the disease is heavily concentrated, attention has concentrated on reaching the most vulnerable groups. But our work is not complete and my organisation is calling on all countries and their development partners to close the gap in access prevention including LLIN bed nets, indoor spraying and preventative therapies for vulnerable groups'.

This call to action is of particular concern in low income countries with a high malaria burden and which are suffering famine due to changes in climate and the impact of civil war in which it is estimated that some 20 million people including 1.4 million children are at risk.

**Supplying LLIN bed nets** We have asked the 4 African Scout Associations with whom we are partnering to contact both the British Embassy and the Department for International Development (DFID) to offer to help them distribute some of the 40 million long life insecticide treated bed nets (LLIN) that DFID is procuring which will enable them to reach more vulnerable families.

**Overcoming insecticide resistance** Mikkel Vestergaard, whose company is a major manufacturer of LLIN bed nets observes in the Guardian supplement that though the number of bed nets distributed in Uganda is high, northern Uganda experienced a six fold increase in malaria cases after withdrawal of residual indoor spraying. Following investigations into the cause, it was decided that resistance to the insecticide used to impregnate the nets had increased to such an extent that the insecticide no longer met WHO guidelines. So a synergistic chemical has been included which blocks the enzyme within the mosquito that prevents the insecticide being effective and the results will be analysed with great interest.

**Activities in a box** Hertfordshire Scouts (Peter Makewell and Mike Aston) are finalising a group of activities which have been developed over the past 18 months. The idea is to include these resources within a box and for one box to be made available to each District in Herts. This will provide leaders with the resources they need to provide programmes which relate to the incidence of malaria and what Scouts can do to help others less fortunate than themselves.

Such activities are not only very educational, but are also great fun and make for interesting programmes. The programme should always end with a discussion about how UK Scouts can raise funds to help Scouts in African countries distribute nets to reduce the incidence of the disease. It is suggested that a Group should collectively raise £5 per person which will pay for purchase and distribution of a treated bed net

**Funds** Since February, funds have been received from Scout Groups in 2<sup>nd</sup> Oxford, Brighton Hill (Basingstoke), Basingstoke Air Scouts, 1<sup>st</sup> Basingstoke, 32<sup>nd</sup> Warrington, 1<sup>st</sup> Whitchurch, 1<sup>st</sup> Malvern Hills, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wideopen, 8<sup>th</sup> Bramshill and 10<sup>th</sup> Hampshire Regional Scout meeting. Two further grants have been made to Scout Associations in Ghana and Malawi.

### **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](http://www.scoutsagainstmalaria.org.uk) or email us at [info@scoutsagainstmalaria.org.uk](mailto:info@scoutsagainstmalaria.org.uk). You can also see what is being done by visiting our Facebook page. Combatting malaria is an activity within the Global Programme Zone of the Scout Association and links UK Scouts with Scouts in sub tropical African countries.