



Newsletter # 9

August 2017

In this issue we describe the scale of the illness, the outcome of trials in 4 African countries and the contents of the Activity resource pack and box which will be launched at the Kent Jamboree.

Scale of the illness

90% of malaria related illnesses and mortality occur in sub tropical Africa where only half the population have access to protection while sleeping under an insecticide treated bed net. Consequently in some countries more than half the admissions to hospitals are malaria related. Young people under the age of 5 are most vulnerable as they lack the body mass to fight the fever which can result in loss of body fluids, dehydration and even death. The video on youtube of Peter Capaldi's visit to a hospital in Lilongwe, Malawi illustrates vividly the scale of the problem <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OgsBbVbpi4g>

How Scouts can make a difference

Local Scout groups have run campaigns in 4 African countries – Malawi, Gambia, Ghana and Uganda and all have been successful. With the help of local health officials, vulnerable families have been identified, bed nets distributed and erected when help is requested. The Scouts in Ghana have found that one person can erect up to 20 nets per day.

All the campaigns have had a similar outcome – each was *unable* to provide nets for all the vulnerable families that had been identified. This is tragic because for a small sum of money, each of us could save a life. Scouts can make a difference because we have Scouts in each Country which could distribute and erect a net and advise where help is available if bitten.

Meeting with Gregory Manful

Gregory is Chief Commissioner, Ghana Scout Association and we met him on his recent visit to London. He described how his Scouts had collaborated with the Health Service and had identified 10 regions where long life impregnated bed nets were required. There are 10,500 Scouts in Ghana and when asked, he accepted the challenge of distributing at least one net on average per Scout. Bought in quantities of 1000 locally, the cost of a net is £1.90.

If however we can find a sponsor who will supply the bed nets as a free issue then whatever funds we raise in the UK, can be used for distribution and erection of the nets. In this way we can join the global partnership to fight malaria.

Malaria activity pack and resource box

This will be launched at the Kent International Jamboree at the Global 5 Alive event on 30 July. The activity pack which can subsequently be downloaded from the SAM website contains a range of activities for all age ranges and can be undertaken over one or two sessions. The resource box contains the resources to undertake the activities and can be ordered via the SAM website.

The activities and resources are also suitable for school projects in key stages 2 and 3.

Earn a badge and save a life

For UK Scouts or schools the challenge is to learn about malaria and how people can be protected against it. Then to raise an average of £5/person which will earn you a SAM badge. When such funds are sent to an African Scout Association, they can buy a net, distribute it and you can save a life.



Scouts in action – Nyame Bekyere, Ashanti District, Ghana

Malaria – activity pack and resource box

	Activity	type	resources
1	Incidence of malaria	Group discussion	Images, video clip
2	Where malaria occurs	Team game	Maps of Africa, World Malaria; coloured pencils
3	How malaria occurs	Team game	Card set
4	Mosquito dice game	Team game	Mosquito parts, dice
5	Balancing a mosquito	Individual activity	Cardboard, tooth picks, blue tack
6	Why malaria is so effective	Group discussion	Images of fair traded products
7	Safe travel	Team game	Board game, counters
8	Transmission of malaria	Team game	Card set
9	Making a mosquito	Individual activity	Pipe cleaners, eyes
10	Erecting a bed net	Team activity	Bed net, twine, bamboo poles
11	Joining the global partnership to fight malaria	Group activity	Images what African Scouts are doing

Not supplied Scissors; coloured pencils; bamboo poles (for raising bed net) suggest 4 x 1.0 m (uprights) ; 8 x 1.8 m (top and side bracing); fair traded products (available from most shops)

Funds Since May, funds have been received from J Dohoo and 2nd Bentley.

Join 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. Combatting malaria is an activity within the Global Programme Zone of the Scout Association and links UK Scouts with Scouts in other countries in Africa.

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