



Newsletter # 10

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Malaria is a disease endemic in many tropical areas of the world particularly in sub tropical Africa for which no vaccine has yet been discovered.

So Scouts have joined the global partnership to fight the disease. In this issue we discuss the outcome of the first campaign in Malawi, the launch of the SAM resource box at the Kent International Jamboree and trialling the SAM resources with Frogmore Green Cub Scout Pack.

The illness

Malaria is induced by the bite of the female Anopheles mosquito, which if infected, can inject a parasite called a plasmodium into the human blood stream. This parasite infects the red blood cells of the liver and multiplies causing serious illness and if not treated can result in severe illness and even death. Some 200 million cases were reported in 2015 resulting in the death of more than 400,000 persons primarily under the age of 5.

Earning the SAM badge

The SAM activities and earning the SAM badge form part of the global programme zone. UK Scouts learn how persons are infected, why the disease can be so effective and how we can help protect people in African countries from being bitten. By also raising funds (and we suggest an average of £5 per Scout) UK Scouts are able to earn and wear the SAM badge while African Scouts earn their badge through campaigns in villages as described below

First Malawi campaign

Malawi is located within the tropical zone of Africa and borders for much of its length by Lake Nyasa. Through 1st Poultners Scout Group (leader Colin Andrews) who visit regularly, we were able to make contact with Howie Maujo, their Executive Commissioner. With funds sent from the UK, Malawian Scouts were able to undertake a distribution campaign in the village of Nkhongoni. Howie reports as follows –

“ The activity encompassed education component and question and answer here issues about malaria were exposed in the community where such information gap need to be bridged with effective campaigns in the area to complement (long life insecticide impregnated) net distribution to achieve desired results in the target area. The first phase encountered the following challenge - community members came in large numbers expecting mosquito nets but only 50 households out of 200 were able to benefit from net distribution leading to many people being disappointed.

When we contacted the Malawian Department of Health they informed us that they only carried a small supply of nets for incidences of disaster relief. We learnt that 8 out of every 10 hospital attendees register malaria cases and that there is a high rate of malaria related death in Nkhongoni area, and almost every day, a malaria related death is registered “

[Malawi photos]

Launch of SAM activity box at Global Live, KIJ



The Kent International Jamboree was held at Maidstone in July involving 5000 Scouts including many from overseas. SAM had not only a stand at the Jamboree but also gave a talk at the Global Live event held each evening at 1700. The activity pack provides a range of activities for for all age ranges and can be undertaken over one or two sessions. The pack can now be down loaded from the SAM website and the resource box will become available via the SAM website.

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

Trialling the SAM resources

The SAM activities are still being trialled and we have recently used these to provide activities for the two Frogmore Green Cub Scout packs. They not only enjoyed the activities, but also decided to colour in their mosquitos so they could identify them and take them home. They also succeeded in erecting a framework of bamboo canes on which they were able to hang the LLIN bed nets.



Funds Since June, funds have been received from 1st Malvern, 9th Andover and SAM/Kent Jamboree

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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