



Newsletter #15September 2019

In reviewing global concerns and what Scouts can do to alleviate adverse impacts, reducing the incidence of tropical diseases became a focal point for discussion. Malaria was identified as affecting most people living in sub Saharan Africa and also one in which UK (and other Scout Associations) could work with local Scout organisations to limit the incidence of the disease.

As malaria is a tropical disease for which no vaccine yet exists, more than 200 million cases and 400,000 deaths are reported annually, primarily of children under 5 years of age. *The damage inflicted extends far beyond loss of life: malaria takes a heavy toll on health systems, sapping productivity and eroding economic growth. As the anopheles mosquito is active at night, the safest form of protection is to sleep under an insecticide treated bed nets (ITN).*

In this issue we discuss recent campaigns in Malawi, the growing resistance to current insecticides and a genetically modified fungus which can kill malaria carrying mosquitos.

Impact of Cyclone Idai

Cyclone Idai hit the coast of Mozambique on March 14 and subsequently moved inland affecting parts of Zimbabwe and Malawi and drenching these areas with rain causing extreme flooding and affecting some millions of people. One after effect has been pools of stagnant water, which made ideal breeding grounds for the anopheles mosquitoes which carry the malaria parasite.

Since 90% of malaria cases occur in 15 African countries, this is simply an additional burden which could result in more people being bitten and more deaths occurring

5th and 6th Malaria campaign, Chikwawa, Malawi

Howie Maujo reports -

'With the financial support of UK Scouts Malawian Scouts have been able to supply disadvantaged families and individuals that include widows, children with physical challenges, orphans who were affected by the cyclone IDAI and the camp that was identified through the Health structure and the District Commissioner was ISOCamp in the District of Chikwawa.



Health Assistants, local chiefs and community members helped in the identification of vulnerable groups and families that were to benefit from the distribution of the ITN, however it was also made clearly that all recipients misusing the nets distributed will be taken to justice.

Some of the beneficiaries



Scout leaders demonstrating and showing the ITN nets to the beneficiaries and explaining the proper use of such nets.

Since Scouts in Malawi started supporting the cyclone Idai victims at ISOcampsite, and through the social media platform of Facebook, many institutions joined us to lift the lives of people in the camp by providing good sanitation and hygiene (good toilets) to make their living easy.

We managed to distribute IMN to 250 households of the 520 households which meant that half of those affected did not benefit as demand is always higher than supply chain. In a follow up campaign we were able to distribute a further 270 nets so being able for the first time to supply all the vulnerable families.

The project has given Scouts another dimension to consider that is giving service to community. Scouts are now able to help in educating civic communities on the dangers of mosquitoes, the proper use of ITN nets and how they can keep their surroundings clean to prevent further breeding of mosquitos

Listen to Colin Andrews interviewing Howie Maujo during his recent visit to Malawi at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p0171fWxVpg&feature=youtu.be>

Drug resistant malaria is spreading across Asia

Drug resistant forms of malaria-causing parasites are spreading across South East Asia leading to 'alarmingly high' treatment failure. Scientists have warned of the terrifying prospect of this parasite spreading across to sub tropical Africa where most malaria cases occur [Guardian 24 July 2019]

GM fungus offers hope in Malaria fight.

A fungus that mosquitos eat has been modified to include a toxin found in the venom of a species of funnel-web spider. Trials are under way in Burkina Faso to see how effective such a fungus might be in controlling the mosquito population [Guardian 1 June 2019]

Join the fight against malaria

If your Section/Group is willing to join the global partnership to fight malaria, visit our website www.scoutsagainstmalaria.org.uk or email us at info@scoutsagainstmalaria.org.uk.

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