

Rotarians Against Malaria

Annual Report 2012-13

Funding This year has seen a slight increase in donations to RAM's Adopt a Village program. A very generous \$129,347.87 was contributed by Clubs and individuals throughout Australia to enable us to continue our efforts in PNG, The Solomons and Timor Leste.

Papua New Guinea Since 2009 RAM PNG, a division of the Rotary Club of Port Moresby, has coordinated the LLIN distribution throughout Papua New Guinea. RAM has bought quick transfer of funds to the program and a consistent methodology in terms of implementation and consistent financial and programmatic reporting. This methodology of consistent procedures has enabled RAM PNG to distribute over 3,581,497 in the last three and a half years. The success of the program is well documented. Before the netting program started the annual Malaria incidence rate was in excess of 30% of the population. Today this has been reduced to less than 8%, proving the value of the netting program.

LLINs will not eliminate malaria but they are still the most effective way in reducing the incidence of Malaria in the general population. If you don't get bitten you won't get malaria.

Solomons Malaria incidence continued to drop in 2012. The annual incidence rate of malaria confirmed either by microscopy or RDT was 44.0/1000 in. It is 10.4% reduction compared to that in 2011 and a 66.7% reduction compared to that in 2007, the last year of the previous strategic plan period.

The mortality in year 2012 was 3.5/100,000. Compared to that in year 2006, it is an 87.4% reduction. The graph below highlights the effectiveness of the Solomons Program.

Malaria mortality rate from 2006 to 2012 in Solomon Islands

The LLIN program continued this year with a further 31,781 nets distributed. The topping up covered a total of 57,056 people in 11,828 households in 1,687 villages. This number exceeded the target by 3922 nets.

Insecticide spraying continued and a total of 27,161 households sprayed. Health promotion continued with 327 Primary schools visited.

RAM involvement for 2013 has been limited to the supply of tools under the healthy community program. To date tools have been provided to 38 Communities and we have requested an assessment of the effectiveness of the program before we distribute any more. We do know that the program has been very effective in Isabel Province with malaria down to 0.4 per 1000.

400,000 nets arrived in country in April and will be distributed in 2013-14. AusAID funding of SBD\$105 million has been committed for the next four years through the Pacific Malaria Initiative.

Timor Leste This year saw RAM distribute a total of 20,000 LLINS in partnership with the Timorese National Malaria Control Program. Twelve Australian Rotarians and a Rotaracter assisted under project 143-2010-11. These nets were distributed in Manatuto District and the Balibo sub district. The nets distributed in Balibo were originally scheduled to go to Atauro Island. A malaria outbreak in Balibo, brought in by Indonesian construction workers, called for quick intervention and we were pleased to be able to help. A full story on the distribution process appeared in the April edition of RDU.

Just before the end June we received a request from the Timorese Ministry of Health for assistance in supplying 42,663 LLINs to be distributed through the countries Ante Natal Clinics to all expectant mothers so their newborn children can start life protected from malaria. They also asked if RAM could supply 1,000 conical LLINs so every hospital bed in Timor could have a mosquito net.

At the RAM Conference in August 2013 approval was given to the request. The 1,000 Conical nets and 20,000 of the 42,663 nets were ordered and will be in Dili early October.