

Rotarians Against Malaria

National Manager's Newsletter

February 2019

RAM - A volunteer-run organisation working to eliminate malaria

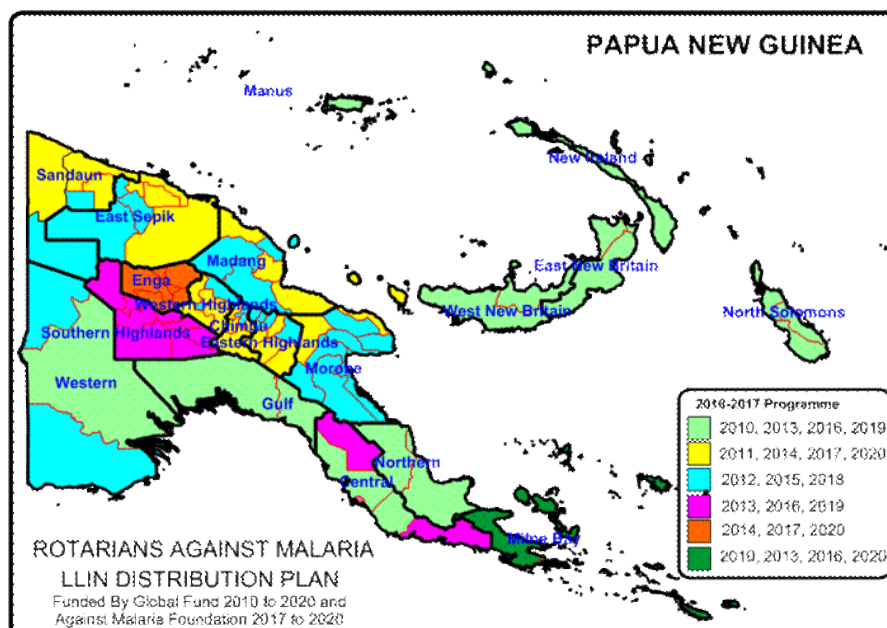
HEADLINE NEWS!!

Uzbekistan certified malaria free: The WHO 2017 Malaria report, released in November 2018 also states that Algeria and Argentina have current requests for malaria free certification and China and El Salvador reported zero cases in 2017. Unfortunately the global case load and mortality rate remain relatively static at 219 million cases and 435,000 deaths although the percentage of victims under 5YO has fallen from 80% to 61%.

RAM PNG

RAM - managing the PNG National Malaria Control Program:

RAM PNG has just completed the first full year of providing comprehensive support to most aspects of the PNG National Malaria Control Program. The permanent RAM PNG staff numbers have expanded to 75 and field activity has included the delivery of 1.34 million bed nets (LLINs) to households and vulnerable groups as well as 2.5 million rapid diagnostic test kits and 1.6 million ACT drug courses to health facilities throughout the country. Since 2017 there have been no more significant malaria commodity shortages and the current LLIN distribution is the 4th replacement cycle since 2009. Funding support is provided by the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB & Malaria, the Against Malaria Foundation and the PNG National Government.



RAM teams conduct regular audits at health facilities to ensure adequate inventories and accurate recording of commodities dispensed as well as diagnostic test results and patient care follow through. These teams also ensure all malaria cases are accurately reported to the National Health Information System in a timely fashion to improve national malaria surveillance. As an additional resource RAM Project Manager Tim Freeman has written and published the booklet “Handbook on Malaria Control in Papua New Guinea”. So far 5,000 copies have been printed and distributed to all Health Facilities and Schools in the country.

Handbook On Malaria Control In
Papua New Guinea



2017

Produced By Rotarians Against Malaria For The National Malaria
Control Programme Of Papua New Guinea



RAM PNG is also administering the financial aspects of the PNG Institute of Medical Research where the following research projects are being supported by the Global Fund:

- Stratification of malaria in PNG in 2018.
- Insecticide Resistance in 2018 and 2020.
- Malaria Indicator Survey, 2019 – 2020.

Chasing Malaria Project:

The ‘Chasing Malaria’ project, funded by RAM, remains focussed on Waima, Bereina and Kairuka in Central Province where 15 schools have formed student clubs to actively track mosquito breeding areas to identify and control local malaria transmission sites. Malaria prevalence screening has been carried out in selected schools and qualified School Teachers and Community Health Volunteers in some communities have been provided with commodities for remote area diagnosis and treatment of positive malaria cases. As with patients at Health Facilities all positive cases are provided with a new LLIN and their home details recorded to enhance accurate malaria surveillance.



Tim Freeman and Dave Pearson with students from Bereina catching and identifying anopheles mosquito larvae in a pond near the school.

Chasing Malaria surveillance in NCD (the National Capital District) has shown a cluster of cases in children at Kaugere. This suggests local transmission rather than imported malaria and so the source needs to be identified. Malaria incidence in NCD remains low and falling.

RAM in Australia has recently supplied two shipping container loads of LLINs to continue support for Chasing Malaria and the Private Sector Retail initiative which is seeking to make high quality LLINs available for purchase at an affordable rate to assist families to maintain and enhance their disease protection.

RAM Solomon Islands

RAM’s support for the Health Villages program of the Health Promotions Division of the MHMS remains our current active program. RAM supports this work by providing sets of tools to qualified villages to conduct work aimed at reducing mosquito breeding sites and enhance village hygiene.

Following a review of the a WHO sponsored Malaria Program Review (MPR) report, completed in Honiara in July 2018, RAM has prepared a project outline for circulation in Honiara and received approval to proceed to a detailed

Project Proposal for a new project as a collaboration with the Australian Aid Program of DFAT. The project outline is to provide targeted support to National and Provincial MHMS staff and the National Vector Borne Disease Program to support control of resurgent malaria in Central Islands Province and to establish systems that will be required to achieve and maintain malaria elimination in the project area in the medium term.

In parallel with the development of the technical proposal for this project, DFAT is also conducting a Due Diligence Review of RAWCS and RAM to ensure our systems and governance standards meet their requirements for future collaborative aid programs.

RAM PhD candidate progress.

Edgar reports that he is progressing the write-up of his PhD research and aims to submit in May. His chapter regarding the barrier screen was published last month and he is planning to submit another chapter, looking at the human behaviour aspects of local malaria transmission, later this month.

RAM Timor Leste

The Rotary Foundation Global Grant of USD \$251,334 to support malaria elimination in Timor Leste is rolling out with USD \$198,000 received and committed so far. An order for 40,000 LLINs has been placed with Sumitomo and they should arrive in Dili in April. The next activity that the grant will fund is the Community Health Volunteers training in February 2019. A Rotary Technical Cadre will undertake an interim monitoring visit in end of March. To support the Cadre and the host partner Rotary Club of Dili Lafaek (RCDL), A G Andrea Grosvenor (RAM Project Manager), will visit Timor Leste during the Cadre's visit. Andrea will report on her visit at our 2019 Annual RAM Conference and is pictured (right) assisting with a 2017 LLIN distribution.



Indonesian Timor NTT Province

Deputy National RAM Manager Dr Jenny Kerrison has maintained a dialogue with Dr Sarlyn Ralo (Head of the National Malaria program in Indonesian West Timor, NTT Province) on cross border collaborative programs to achieve malaria free status for the whole island of Timor and surrounding smaller islands. Unfortunately Rotary representation in NTT appears to be suspended at this time so she has sought to establish contacts with Rotary in Indonesia to promote re-establishment of a Rotary presence in Kupang or to find an alternate Indonesian Rotary Club to collaborate with. If you can help with this process, please let Jenny know via kerrison_jenny@yahoo.com.au.

Vanuatu

RAM Vanuatu Country Coordinator Virginia Turner is corresponding with WHO Malaria Program Technical Advisor for Vanuatu, Tessa Knox, to determine how RAM might support the malaria control and elimination programs in that country. Consultations with RNZWCS indicate that there are no current plans in New Zealand Rotary organisations for additional malaria programs in Vanuatu.

Tessa has forwarded the final Malaria Program Review document which concludes that the country is on track to achieve malaria free status but malaria outbreaks in Malampa and Sanma caused by a break down in the LLIN delivery program must be addressed with rapid deployment of new LLINs and IRS. Tafea Province continues to maintain it's malaria free status and rigorous surveillance can commence in Torba, Shefa, and Penama as a prerequisite to malaria elimination in these Provinces. RAM will work to develop a proposal for a meaningful contribution to support this work.

Malaria Vaccine Development: PDG Graham Jones, Chair of the Malaria Vaccine Project Committee

Fund raising to support the current clinical trials of vaccine candidate PlasProtect® now totals more than \$530,000. Apart from significant donations from the Queensland Government and Zarraffas Coffee, Rotary Clubs, Districts and Friends of Rotary have raised more than 75% of this total. The target of \$1,000,000 by December 2019 is quite a challenge, but we must meet this challenge so that the promising results from the clinical trials can be continued and completed in Brisbane over the next 18 months.

Only four months from retirement and having presided at the official project launch, the Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) has demonstrated his enduring support for the Malaria Vaccine Project by re-visiting the Institute for Glycomics, at Griffith University in late January. Sir Peter's return visit gave the Project a tremendous boost of media support: TV coverage in the evening news bulletins on Channels 7, 9, and 10. He pledged his ongoing support for the malaria vaccine research at Griffith University and for the fundraising efforts of Rotary. Sir Peter commented, "This is just the kind of research that is needed to wipe out the absolute scourge of malaria from places like Africa and parts of Asia".



Dr Danielle Stanisic described how the trials had proceeded with a small number of volunteers at the Gold Coast during the last four months of 2018. Each of the participants received three injections of the vaccine and was then tested with a live malaria parasite. She observed that the trials were going well and that the results looked exciting. Further trials with larger groups will take place in Brisbane with the complete results being announced in mid-2020.

The Governor General meets with Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Ned Pankhurst, Dr Chris Davis, PDG Graham Jones and Dr Danielle Stanisic.

Visit the website: maliavaccineproject.com where you can view videos of the Governor-General's visit and hear various comments about the malaria research and Rotary's efforts. THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

RAM and other Rotary International malaria programs.

REMaRAG will once again present a stand in the hall of friendship at the RI Convention in Hamburg. Several RAM Committee members are planning to attend and assist in raising malaria and RAM awareness there. General enquiries contact: PDG Ian Priestley (remaragmalaria@gmail.com) A link to the latest REMaRAG Newsletter is on the RAM website under the 'Reports and Articles' drop down menu > REMaRAG page, final line.

Rotarian Malaria Partners latest Newsletter reports that the Katakwi Rotary Malaria Control Project (KRMP) Phase Two Global Grant proposal (GG #1863915) for NE Uganda has received approval from the Rotary Foundation. This Phase Two project builds on the highly successful results of "Phase One" Katakwi Malaria Care and Health System Strengthening (GG #1423515) which was coordinated by local host club Soroti Central Rotary Club with support of international lead club, Seattle #4 and local NGO, Pilgrim Africa. These three partners have joined together again to implement Phase Two, along with the support of 26 other Rotary clubs in the U.S. and Africa, and with strong financial support from Rotarian Malaria Partners.

Contact them at info@rotarianmalariapartners.org to get on their mail list.

RAM Scientific Committee

DGN Bruce Anderson, RAM Scientific Committee Coordinator, routinely scans medical and scientific literature for developments in research that may have relevance to on-going malaria elimination efforts, and maintains a database of relevant literature citations. Bruce also monitors the local malaria research community in Australia for projects and outcomes which could potentially be of use in future RAM programs, and engages directly with researchers, as appropriate, to inform them of RAM activities. As Deputy RAM Chair for District 9790, Bruce has spoken on RAM at 14 Rotary Clubs since April 2016 and raised over \$5000 from pin sales and direct donations. Bruce's presentations to clubs evolve over time based upon emerging developments across the malaria world.

It is expected that Bruce will work closely with the RAM team to put together the project proposal for the RAM-DFAT collaboration in the Solomon Islands.

Annual RAM Conference

The 2019 RAM Conference will return to Melbourne to be held again at Ciloms Airport Lodge on 24th and 25th August. Please put these dates in your diaries and if you intend travelling to join us please book early to ensure a room at Ciloms. Jenny Kerrison and her Conference Committee are already making advanced preparations for another memorable RAM Weekend so we look forward to seeing you there.

RAM Web site and Media

D9830 Rotaractor Richard Siu has volunteered to help as our RAM website and Facebook administrator. Richard works in IT at the University of Tasmania (UTAS). Another Rotaractor Izabella Spizick, a student at UTAS, will assist Richard in his tasks for RAM. Unfortunately, Richard felt that the broader job expectations of the Media and PR Coordinator are too onerous for him at this time, given his other commitments, so we are still looking to fill that position on the RAM Executive Committee.

See RAM at www.ram.rawcs.com.au and www.facebook.com/ram.australia/.

RAM National Secretary Gloria has compiled an inventory list of RAM promotional material in the hands of our representatives and is coordinating printing of revised leaflets for distribution before MAD and District Conferences.

Malaria Awareness Day 30th April.

A timely reminder from RAM National Secretary Gloria: Malaria Awareness Day is a very important day in the RAM Calendar for it is a great opportunity to promote community understanding of the global campaign to eradicate malaria by 2040. It is also a chance to highlight the outstanding contribution RAM has made in the last 24 years, supporting in a number of ways the local health authorities in our areas of focus.

Over the years RAM has initiated numerous effective malaria elimination programs in these countries and has also given substantial financial assistance, both approaches having led to wonderful progress being made.

Please consider your Club holding a special event to recognise Malaria Awareness Day. There are MAD flyers and RAM brochures available to support your function/event/activity. If you wish to receive any or would like some ideas for activities, please contact your District RAM Chair or Regional Coordinator.

RAM Schools Video Competition 2019?

Three primary Schools participated in the RAM Schools Video Competition in 2018. These great short presentations can be viewed on the RAM website www.ram.rawcs.com.au . The links appear beneath the Blue [DONATE NOW] box in the right hand side column of most of the site's pages.

The main purpose of the Malaria Video competition is to spread awareness of the global impact of malaria in developing countries particularly amongst the young and to provide RAM with some useful, if a little quirky, promotional material for wider malaria awareness raising.

The future of this competition depends on the involvement of the multiple Districts across Australia but uptake of this opportunity has been very limited. If you would like to see schools in your District get involved please now contact Virginia at vm.turner@bigpond.com . The competition will only run again if there is genuine wide spread expressions of interest.

RAM Positions

I am very pleased to report that RAM Southern Region Coordinator Gloria Hargreaves has accepted the position of Interim National Secretary to be confirmed at the AGM and has recruited past D9820 Chair, Christine Williams to fill the SR RAWCS Coordinator role. Virginia Turner has agreed to take up the new position of RAM Country Coordinator for Vanuatu.

AG Andrea Grosvenor from D9710 has accepted the position of Project Manager for the RAM TRF Grant for Timor Leste and will also replace ER RAWCS RAM Coordinator John Macpherson when he steps down at the end of 2019.

We would very much like to hear from any Rotarians or Rotaractors who would be interested in joining the RAM Executive Committee in the position of PR and Media Coordinator.

For any RAM related enquiries please contact:

Dave Pearson: dave@sugarloafne.com or **Gloria Hargreaves:** egharg@netspace.net.au

Contacts for the RAM Executive Committee and all RAM District Chairs can be found on the RAM web site under About Us / Contact Us.

RAM is a National Activity of RAWCS



David Pearson :
National Manager RAM, 12th February 2019.