

Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM) Annual Report

Adopt A Village Program

Total contributions towards the work of Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM) for all projects since the *Adopt A Village* program commenced in 2003 are \$1,270,825.96.

This excludes the many Matching Grants and the two very large 3-H Grants in the Solomons.

Everyone will be aware that the *Adopt A Village* program is changing in the Solomons. Because of the country-wide net distribution funded by the Global Fund and the Australian Government, *Adopt A Village* donations are now used to buy and distribute tools, and train villagers, in clearing mosquito breeding grounds. In 2011/2012 tools were distributed to nine (9) villages.

Papua New Guinea

In 2011/2012 RAM Port Moresby staff had been involved in the distribution of nets in eight provinces. During this period RAM distributed just over 500,000 nets to households and nearly 2,500 nets to vulnerable groups.

In Geneva during the first week of February 2012, PP Ron Seddon, Rotary Club of Port Moresby, on behalf of RAM Port Moresby, signed for Stage 2 of the Global Fund Grant.

Early in 2012 we received results of research conducted throughout the country by the Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research (PNGIMR). "Poster results" from this research show that since 1997, 5.5 million long lasting insecticide treated mosquito nets (LLINs) have been distributed by Rotarians Against Malaria.. We also know that household ownership of LLINs has increased dramatically from 10 per cent prior to the large scale distribution commencing, to about 80- per cent in 2011. Largely as a result of this, across Papua New Guinea the prevalence of malaria infection fell from 13 per cent in 2009 to 6.5 per cent in 2011. In the conclusion to the poster report, the PNGIMR says –

"In the absence of any other major malaria control intervention, the observed reduction in malaria incidence and population prevalence can be considered a direct consequence of the net distribution. A continuous supply of LLINs is required to sustain the current gains."

We must not be complacent. The research also showed that net usage in households was still below 50 per cent in 2011 for the simple reason that there were still insufficient nets within households.

Solomon Islands

In 2011 the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) distributed over 46,000 LLINs as part of the campaign to maintain high population coverage with LLINs. This is following the distribution of just over 316,000 LLINs in 2010. Reports from a survey conducted in 2011 indicates that 91 % of all households surveyed owned at least one LLIN, with 81.5% of households owning more than one.

The 2011 Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) campaign saw over 37,900 households sprayed with insecticide. This intervention, coupled with high LLIN coverage has significantly reduced the transmission of malaria in Solomon Islands, such that the annual incidence of confirmed malaria cases (Annual Parasite Incidence) has decreased markedly to under 47 cases per 1,000 population in 2011 (actual data available at present\ indicates an API of 46.5 cases per 1,000 population in 2011). This is down from 75 cases per 1,000 population incidence in 2010.

The Ministry of Health have decided to implement the Tools for Villages concept in its *Healthy Community* program and have appointed someone to oversee the project. It is intended to concentrate on Isabel and Guadalcanal Provinces first. To date tools have been distributed to

8 Communities on Isabel, the cost of tools per community is AUD\$560.

Timor Leste

The Global Fund is funding the distribution of LLINs throughout Timor-Leste. At the 2011 RAM Conference at Caboolture, we learned from the delegates from Timor-Leste that there were gaps in the Global Fund distribution. We decided that RAM would fill those gaps. RAM is currently in a position where we can order the LLINs for RAWCS Project 143/2010-2011. To facilitate the delivery of these nets, and Rotary's role in the distribution process, Dili Rotarian Daryl Mills OAM is currently in discussion with the Timor-Leste Ministry of Health (TLMOH)

Everyone will also recall that the TLMOH advised that Australian Rotarians would be welcome to join LLIN distribution teams.

RAM National Conference and Dinner

This year's RAM Conference was held at the Australian Army Malaria Institute (AMI) at Enoggera Military Base, Brisbane over weekend 26-27 May. In addition to receiving up-dates on the present situation in Papua New Guinea, the Solomons, and Timor-Leste, we heard presentations from scientists working in the anti-malaria field. These included Professor Denis Shanks, AMI, Dr Paul Griffen, Queensland Institute of Medical Science, and Professor Maxine Whittaker, University of Queensland. The program also included a tour of the facility. Space is restricted at the Conference venue to sixty (60) so it's very much "first come, etc".

The Saturday night Conference Dinner was held at the Arana Leagues Club with Professor Michael Good, Griffith University, as the guest speaker.

Again we had two delegates join us from Timor-Leste.

Malaria Awareness Day

Every year the world malaria community commemorates *World Malaria Day* on **25 April**. The theme for *World Malaria Day* 2012 - "**Sustain Gains, Save Lives: Invest in Malaria**" focuses on the critical need for continued investment in malaria control to safeguard the gains that have been made over the past decade and to promote health and development in malaria-endemic countries. In deference to the significance of 25 April in Australia, the National Rotarians Against Malaria Committee decided to recognise ***Malaria Awareness Day*** on **30 April**.

This year, unlike what we've done in the past few years, we did not circulate a Community Service Announcement and ask that it be given to local TV stations. Last year, after the event, a very short "straw poll" was conducted, and we learned that it wasn't worthwhile repeating the exercise, as it received very limited air time. A number of us spent a great deal of time negotiating with local TV stations to little or no avail.

Ian Sayers
Chair
Rotarians Against Malaria National Committee

25 Sep 12