

# RAM Annual Report 2013-2014

2013-14 has been a trying year for our District RAM Chairs. The competition for our Club's Dollars has resulted in a decrease of funds donated to \$121,000.00 this rotary year. We are fortunate that our funds were supplemented by a US\$100,000.00 Rotary Foundation Global Grant that has enabled us to fulfil our obligations.

**Papua New Guinea** As RAM PNG come to the conclusion of the current round of Global Grant funding it is time to reflect on how successful their efforts have been. To date they have distributed 5,737,601 LLINs from September 2011 to July 2014. All 22 Provinces and 89 Districts have now been covered at least once. It is regrettable that a few villages have not received nets because of various reasons. These include intertribal fighting, survey refusal and ARB ([what is ARB?](#)) restricted areas.

In the same time the incidence of Malaria has reduced dramatically. From 1,575,352 cases and 670 deaths in 2007 to less than 400,000 cases and 170 deaths in 2013, a reduction of almost 75%. With another 1,263,557 delivered this year the numbers will fall even further.

RAM PNG has been invited by the Global Fund to apply for the next round of funding to cover the period 2015-2016.

**Solomon Islands** The involvement of RAM on the PIRMCCM is drawing to a close. That body was formed at the request of the Global Fund in 2002 and RAM was asked to be a member in 2006, representing the private sector. With the withdrawal of the Solomon Islands from this Committee, Vanuatu remains as the only malaria endemic country in the group. RAM would like to acknowledge the efforts of PDG Peter Thomas and the eight years he has spent as the private sector representative on the committee. Peter will resign at the next meeting as the RAM role has considerably reduced.

The Healthy Villages partnership between the Ministry of Health and the Honiara Rotary Club, funded by RAM, has gone from strength to strength. There are now an additional 80 villages completing the registration process and they will be issued with their tools on completion.

The netting program run by the Solomon's MOH is continuing but has been subject to investigations for fraud, graft and corruption involving considerable sums. The MOH has applied for funding in the next round of Global Fund Grants.

**Timor Leste** At the RAM Conference in 2014 the Program Manager Mrs. Maria Moto of Timorese National Malaria Control program requested RAM's assistance in the supply of 42,700 LLINs for the Timorese 2013-2014 expectant mothers program and 7,500 LLINs for

their “population at risk” shortfall. The first 20,000 nets for the expectant mother’s program were delivered in October 2013. A Rotary Foundation Global Grant was organised to supply the balance. The Grant has been approved and the nets arrived at the end of August 2014.

The “population at risk’ nets were supplied at the end of April and Rotarians from D9550, D9570 and D9790 assisted in their distribution in the Maubara District.

The Programs of the Timorese National Malaria Control Program have been so successful that Timor Leste has seen the infection rate drop from a total of 243,695 cases , or 256 cases per 1000 in 2004 (before nets) to 1084, or .9 cases per 1000 in 2014. RAM is proud to have been able to assist Timor in achieving this remarkable result. In the last two years RAM’s contribution has been more than \$390,000.00 and this commitment would not be possible without the generous support of Australian Rotary Clubs.

**R.I. Convention** RAM was invited to participate in one of the Malaria Breakout Groups at the Sydney Convention. RAM Chair PDG Phil Dempster, Treasurer, PDG Richmond Manyweather and RAM PNG.s PP Ron Seddon briefed the multinational audience on RAM’s efforts to assist our near neighbours. The presentations were well received and we thank PDG Ian Priestly from RIBI’s Rotarians Eliminating Malaria for the opportunity.

**The Future** The Healthy Villages program is being trialled in PNG and RAM is in discussions with the Timorese MOH to initiate the program in Timor. Border security is also an issue in Timor Leste and PNG as both countries have common borders with Indonesia and a steady flow of cross border movements. RAM is currently investigating how it can assist in controlling the cross border spread of Malaria. A Malaria Research Scholarship has also been mooted and is currently under consideration.

PDG Phil Dempster  
National Chair  
Rotarians Against Malaria