

Rotarians Against Malaria

Annual Report 2017-2018

- **Support for Timor Leste malaria elimination program.**

The assessment and approval process for the RAM, TRF Global Grant application, to help the Timor Leste National Malaria Program achieve WHO malaria free certification within the next five years, has been difficult in negotiating with the Timorese legal advisors and meeting the onerous expectations of TRF staff. We have been told the process is much simpler for a smaller grant application (<USD\$ 100,000 from TRF). So far in addition to numerous emails, in excruciating detail, the process has required calls to the TRF staffer's supervisor to un-lock blockages and for RAM Deputy National Manager Jenny Kerrison to spend 10 days in Dili facilitating the TRF Cadre visit and negotiating with and mentoring NMP staff and RC Dili Lafaek. We are awaiting determination of the application by the full Board of Trustees of TRF in August.

- **PNG**

RAM Exec Committee has assessed a proposal from the New Ireland Province Malaria Alliance and an international aid Consultancy Shared Sky Pty Ltd to co-fund a two year detailed feasibility study for a malaria elimination program in New Ireland Province. The requested funding was for AUD\$100,000 over two years. The Committee has rejected this proposal as it is not in line with RAM's aims of spending donated funds on actual malaria control and elimination programs rather than this type of desk-top planning and evaluation.

The request from our Chasing Malaria project for funding an additional two containers of LLINs missed last year's budget but is expected soon and funds will be carried forward.

- **Solomons**

Following the Malaria World Congress DFAT has written to RAM indicating that they would like to progress a collaborative malaria elimination project in the Solomons, to be led by RAM. DFAT has indicated that they could contribute AUD\$200,000 over the next two years and so we are proposing a budget of \$500,000 comprised of that and additional matching funds from RAM and in-kind contributions from Solomons MHMS. The RAM Committee is currently working on a draft detailed project proposal and plan to refine this in pre-Conference meetings ahead of the RAM Conference. We have been consulting widely on this proposal and many of the key players and advisors will be present at the RAM Conference.

Our current proposal is to support and strengthen the operations of National and Provincial MHMS staff to ensure 100% population coverage of the malaria interventions that RAM has been developing and supporting since 1995 and ensuring that there are no shortfalls in health clinic supplies etc. as well as adequate staffing and effective placement of clinics. This will be a holistic approach which should improve general village health as well as strengthening the MHMS capability. The collaborative project will probably need to employ a full time in-country project manager on a contract basis.

- **1st Malaria World Congress.**

RAM's presence at the First Malaria Congress was an outstanding success in raising the profile of our organisation and of Rotary's credentials in global health programs. RAM made contact with organisations across all the various sectors in the malaria world including other NGOs and CSO's, Governments and other policy makers, researchers and medical supply companies. As a direct result of our involvement we were approached to consider the NIPMA proposal (discussed above under PNG) and DFAT has now approved progressing a new collaboration with RAM for a malaria elimination project in the Solomon Islands (also discussed above under (Solomons)).

RAM was also represented in pre-Congress meetings and concurrent meetings which have led to the establishment of a new global advocacy group to be called CS4ME – Civil Society for Malaria Elimination. As a founding organisation RAM will continue to contribute ideas and moral support to this group.

- **Malaria Vaccine Development.**

Rotary fund raising for the next phase of human trials of the PlasProtect Vaccine, being developed at Griffith University, has reached \$468,000 toward the new goal of \$600,000. Recruiting of volunteers for the human trials has been completed and the trials are set to commence

- **DFAT and Australian Aid Program.**

Following initial discussions regarding possible collaborations on malaria projects with DFAT they requested, as a pre-condition that DFAT conduct a Due Diligence review of RAWCS / RAM to ensure our suitability for such collaborations with the Australian Aid Program. [See paper tabled at last BoD meeting, documenting the background to this request.] I have been advised that review will commence following receipt and assessment of RAM's detailed collaborative project proposal.

- **RAM Conference, Gold Coast 25th – 26th August 2018.**

The call for registrations for the Annual RAM Conference has been broadcast on MailChimp. This year's Conference will highlight the Vaccine development at Griffith University and include some hands-on malaria lab experiences for delegates. We will also have a report from the WMC by Convenor Prof Helen Evans, a global perspective from Prof Tom Burkot, and up-dates from other key researchers. RAM programs will be highlighted by our field workers and by representatives of the Ministries of health in the Solomons and Timor Leste who we collaborate with. We also hope to have a representative of the Indonesian West Timor malaria program.

PP David Pearson

National Manager: Rotarians Against Malaria.