



December 05, 2008

Field Report : Todd Lawson & Christina Tottle  
Motos Against Malaria  
Maracha/Terego LLIN Distribution  
Arua, Uganda

To: Rob Mather, Founder  
Against Malaria Foundation

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Dear Mr. Mather,

We are pleased to say that the distribution to Tara and Nyadri sub-counties, where the nets from Motos Against Malaria were allocated, was a success. 100% of the beneficiaries received a net to cover the beds of all children under the age of five.

After sitting in and participating where we could during the week of training (in and out of town), we recorded some great footage leading up to distribution day, and were able to absorb a considerable amount of information about the entire distribution program. We took part in the training of the CMD's in Nyadri sub-county, moved to Tara subcounty for Allocation day, then travelled around to all the distribution points the day of distribution in Tara the following day.

We both thought that the whole program (and the team representing the Malaria Consortium) was well-executed, organized and implemented. Other than daily tardiness (ie. African time!), we have nothing but positive things to say.

We stayed at the Tara headquarters in Kololo East village where we began our three successive follow-up days in the region. We were graciously welcomed by all, and camped under the African stars each of the three nights, setting up a mosquito net between our bikes and sleeping on our mats on the grass in true African style.

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## 'T&T' Motos Against Malaria personal follow-up & documentation session

### DAY 1 — TARA SUB-COUNTY

Vura, Anivu & Ombavu Parishes

- Visited approx. 8-12 homes within each parish
- Most of the homes visited had their nets over the beds of their children
- Approx. 15% of beneficiaries who had nets, had not yet hung them, even after the 24-hr. 'airing-out' period. When we asked them why, most of them didn't really have an answer, other than to explain that they didn't have basic supplies such as nails or string to hang the nets, in which case we personally helped them hang the nets with supplies on-hand.
- several of the beneficiaries who didn't have beds and who slept on mats on the hard floor, had hung them too high, leaving a small gap for mosquitoes to enter. We explained the importance of tucking the net under the mat, and in each case helped the beneficiaries to lower their nets.

### DAY TWO — Pajama & Ojapi Parishes

- Visited 10-12 homes within each parish
- approx. half of homes had beds/mattresses and half slept on mats on the floor
- again we found that a few people hadn't hung nets properly (too high), and helped to lower their nets
- some beneficiaries had no nails with which to hang nets. In these instances, we used sticks and pounded them into the walls using a rock. Those who didn't have string used torn pieces of material or twine.
- in all homes, we stressed the importance of eliminating any stagnant water (esp. during rainy season), by covering pots of water and sweeping away and puddles outside their huts.

### DAY THREE — NYADRI SUB-COUNTY

Bura, Baria, Pabura and Robu Parishes

- Visited 4-6 homes within each parish (we were starting to run low on food and batteries in video camera).
  - in some homes the nets were perfectly hung and the beneficiaries were all extremely grateful.
  - when we found the men at home, many of them had the nets slung (but not hung) above their own beds. In these cases, we took them down after explaining the necessity of their babies protection first and then asked for their help to hang it where the baby slept.
  - in as many cases as we could, we got the parent(s) involved with the hanging of the net so they would know how to handle it on their own, and explained (usually with the help of a volunteer 'guide/interpreter') the need to roll it up carefully during the day to increase the net's life-span.
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Suggestions and Observations:

From what we experienced in the field in the three days directly following the distribution, **an immediate follow-up seems imperative to ensure that these nets are actually being hung over the beds of the proper beneficiaries. We feel that a follow-up after three months is also key to observe that they are still in use.** However, during that time, the nets can easily fall into the wrong hands and be sold or misused. Sometimes people need to be encouraged to introduce something new into their daily routine, even if it means reminding them that this small piece of fabric can save their infants life.

Also, **in the illustrated pamphlet and during the training exercises, these people should be shown and told that if they do not have the necessary tools to hang their nets properly (ie: string, nails, etc.), they should use whatever means necessary. (ie: sticks, rocks, pieces of wire or strips of fabric, etc.)** As basic as this may sound, the level of poverty is extremely high as you know, and the hanging and handling of a net is foreign to many of them.

In parting, we would like to thank all of those involved with this project, and we are pleased to have been a part of such an incredible endeavour. Not only have we put a dent in the fight against malaria together, we had fun doing it — the bikes and smiling children helped with this!

We hope to keep the wheels of Motos Against Malaria rolling far into the future of malaria prevention.

With sincere thanks,

Todd Lawson & Christina Tottle  
Motos Against Malaria  
Trans-African Odyssey 2008

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