



## MALARIA PROJECT SUMMARY

The mission of Rotary International, a worldwide association of Rotary clubs, is to provide service to others, promote high ethical standards, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders. The vision of Rotary International is to be universally recognized for commitment to Service above Self to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace. The Malaria Run is an initiative of Rotary Club of Westlands, Nairobi with an objective of stepping up awareness and the fight against the killer Malaria disease. Health is one of the areas that Rotarians are involved in serving the community.

Malaria is a disease of humans caused by infection with *Plasmodium* protozoan parasites and is characterized by chills, fever, and, in the most severe cases, coma leading to death. Malaria though preventable is the world's number one killer disease especially in the Sub-Saharan Africa where it is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality. Even though it is prevalent in Sub-Saharan Africa, the disease has no borders. It does not discriminate by race, profession, age or physis; however the most vulnerable are the poor and more so pregnant women and children. Malaria affects the individual, the family, the business organization and evidently the country's development. A healthy population is a necessity for good business and prosperity. Malaria poses an enormous health and economic burden in Kenya. In Kenya, malaria kills 34,000 children under five years annually (about 90 children daily) and is to blame for the birth of 6,000 underweight babies each year. The disease is also the leading cause of anaemia among pregnant women. About 25 million people in Kenya are at risk of attacks annually. The disease accounts for 30 percent of outpatients in hospitals while 20 percent of admissions suffer from the disease. 170 million working days are lost due to malaria annually.

The four intervention measures outlined in the Kenya National Malaria Strategy (NMS) document are; 1) Management of malarial illness; 2) Vector control by use of insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs) and other methods, such as indoor house spraying; 3) Control of malaria in pregnancy; and 4) Control of malaria epidemics. \_\_\_\_\_Ministry of Health, NMCP 2001.

Dr Elizabeth Juma the head of the Division of Malaria Control announced recently the governments plan to eradicate malaria in the country by the year 2017. This will make Kenya one of the few African countries to eradicate the disease successfully. The first of the four strategies in the said plan is *"to increase community participation in the fight against the disease through a campaign to ensure that everybody owns and uses a treated Mosquito Net"* \_\_ (Daily Nation. Friday April 17, 2009. p.8)

The goal of the Rotary Malaria Project will be to assist the reduction on morbidity and mortality of pregnant women and children below 5 years. Rotary intends to participate in the preventive approach in Malaria control. The specific objectives will be to:

- organize a charity Run (*Rotary Malaria Charity Run*) as a launch to the project fundraiser
- acquire Insecticide-Treated Nets (ITNs) / Long Life Insecticide Treated Nets (LLINs).
- distribute the nets to vulnerable mothers and children, in selected communities in the Malaria endemic regions.(Lake and Coast region)
- facilitate a Malaria awareness campaign in sync with the net distribution activity.

The project will be done within a year from May 2009 to May 2010. The Run encourages participation from; Rotarians, renowned Kenyan athletes and well-wishers including eminent persons attending the conference. The Theme of the run is **"Run... Stop Malaria, Save a Life."** There will be four categories in the race; i.e. Women, children, physically challenged and the men category. We hope to attract 5000 people to participate in the event. Entry fee for the run is Kshs 1000/=

***Rotary Club of Westlands requests your assistance in partnering and sponsoring the Mosquito Net project in any way you can***



## **How can you help?**

This is a request to your esteemed organisation to support this noble initiative through financial, material or any other support, for example:

- 1) Sponsor a given number of insecticide treated bed nets
- 2) Print *Malaria Run* t-shirts
- 3) Supply water during the *Malaria Run*
- 4) Donate cash
- 5) Undertake advertisement

## **MALARIA FACT BITS**

### **Did you know that.....?**

- Each year Malaria afflicts more than 500,000 people
- Malaria kills more than a million people annually, 90% are African Children
- Every 30 seconds in Africa a Child dies from Malaria
- Malaria-related low birth weight in infants causes about 100,000 infant deaths annually in Africa
- Malaria illness and death costs Africa about \$12bn a year in lost productivity
- Combined with HIV/AIDS, Malaria is even more deadly, especially in pregnant women and in children
- Malaria is both preventable and treatable.
- Malaria has been brought under control and even completely eliminated in many parts of Asia, Europe and the Americas.
- At about \$10 per net, the Malaria treated nets are a cost effective way of prevention of Malaria.
- Long lasting insecticide treated nets can keep a family safe for up to four years.

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