

Rotarians Against Malaria

Adopt A Village Program – Future Direction

The very successful *Adopt A Village* (AAV) program is going to change. Thanks to significant grants from the Global Fund (in PNG and the Solomon Islands), and similarly large funding by, amongst others, the Australian Government (in the Solomon Islands), *Adopt A Village*, in its present form must be adjusted.

Above all, the sustainability of the netting program for future years must be guaranteed, in the hope that an affordable anti-malaria vaccine is developed.

In Papua New Guinea (PNG) the Global Fund will, over the next five years, provide sufficient funds to ensure everyone can sleep under an appropriate Long Lasting Insecticide Treated bed net (LLIN). In addition, the fund will finance the treatment of malaria victims using Artemisinin Combination Therapy or ACT. ACT is very effective but its widespread use is restricted by its cost. It is stressed that the Global Fund initiative is a five year program. Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM) must position itself to ensure the sustainability of the LLIN supply as the initial LLIN's wear out as we are now doing.

The potential termination of funding after the initial LLIN's wear out could see a malaria explosion. The LLIN's currently in use do result in a decrease in the natural immunity achieved as a result of a lifetime of suffering. If the supply of LLIN's is not maintained and a major medical breakthrough is not forthcoming, a massive malaria epidemic may ensue.

The situation in the Solomon Islands (SI) differs from PNG. Global Funding for the continued supply of LLIN's will be ongoing. In addition, the Australian Government is providing funding for the establishment of the infrastructure for the netting program to operate. Rotary is working co-operatively with AusAid in implementing this program through our Volunteer Teams to assist in construction and Donations-in-Kind (DIK) to transport materials.

But there is more! Part of effective malaria control involves the cleaning up of villages and eliminating possible breeding sites. The Solomon Island's Ministry of Health's Senior Malaria Officer has recommended that the Adopt A Village model be given a new focus. Villages which agree to implement appropriate management structures will receive tools, equipment and training to enable them to eliminate breeding sites in and around their villages. Their efforts will be monitored by the relevant SI Ministry of Health Department and by RAM. Your AAV contributions will help fund the supply of the necessary equipment. Your village 'adoption' will continue as before.

In summary, it is essential that Rotary Clubs, Rotarians, and the community continue to provide long term support for our nearest neighbours in the fight against malaria. Whilst our timeframe and approach may differ, our aim remains the reduction in the mortality and morbidity resulting from endemic malaria. We thank you for your past support and look forward to winning this battle in the future with your continued support.

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