



SERVICE PROJECT SHEET

Rotarians Eliminating Malaria in Tanzania

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Project name:

Rotarians Eliminating Malaria in Tanzania (REMIT)

Situation:

One million children die from malaria in Sub-Saharan Africa every year.

Malaria is the biggest overall killer in Tanzania.

80,000 children in Tanzania die of malaria every year, and a quarter of all childhood deaths in Tanzania are from malaria.

The cost to the African economy is estimated at a staggering \$15 billion annually.

Life cycle of malaria:

Mosquitos breed in standing water such as ditches, ponds, old car tyres and swampy areas. They bite an infected person, sucking up the malarial parasite and then, when they bite someone else, the parasite is transferred and, if the victim has acquired no immunity over the years, he or she will develop malaria. Hence it is the young, who have no resistance, who are most at risk. The incidence of attacks is from dusk to dawn.

Stopping transmission:

- Remove stagnant water (ditches/tyres)
- In-fill marshy areas
- Spray stagnant areas with insecticide
- Stop the mosquito biting - nets over beds at night
- Kill the mosquitos - spray nets with insecticide first
- Diagnose malarial cases early before complications set in
- Educate the villagers as to what causes malaria and how they can stop it

REMIT:

The aim of REMIT is to ask Rotarians in Great Britain and Ireland to raise money to help fight this disease. REMIT are working together with the Rotarians and Rotaractors from Arusha in North East Tanzania. Malaria prophylaxis was one of their main projects two years ago. A REMIT bank account has already been set up in Arusha.

This money will be used -

1. To purchase nets to stop people being bitten by mosquitos
2. To purchase sprays of insecticide to kill the mosquitos
3. To purchase bikes to enable the anti-malarial workers to travel farther in search of ditches, ponds, old tyres and other breeding sites
4. To purchase laboratory equipment to facilitate early diagnosis

The project:

The nets are made locally thus helping local economy, as well as the price. There is no need to ship nets etc. from the U.K.

The nets will be collected by the Arusha Rotarians and given first of all to pregnant mothers and children (those most at risk).

If people can afford to pay a little towards the cost (roughly £2), then that produces more funds to purchase more netting.

The nets will be distributed initially around the 143 villages in the Aremeru area (2966 Sq. Km.) and the Arusha region, and to the local hospitals.

Symposia have been set up in which health workers, nurses, social workers, other medical personnel, village leaders etc. are trained so that they can then go out into the surrounding villages and educate and train the local inhabitants.

REMIT goal:

- It is well recognised that, whenever swampy areas are cleared, and where insecticide-treated nets are used regularly, the incidence of malaria drops by about 70%.
- Working with the Rotarians from Arusha, REMIT would eventually like to put a net over every child in Tanzania at night.
- As the local leaders see the success of REMIT, they hope (and expect) that the word will spread and more people and groups will want to join the project.
- REMIT feel this is a classical example of doing good in the world, the theme of The Rotary Foundation.

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Cheques payable to "REMIT" and send to RIBI, Kinwarton Road, Alcester, Warwickshire, B49 6PB.

Visit our website www.remit.org.uk

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