

Malaria Control: Net Culture, Community Participation

Mission Agency Launches New Ministry



Program Begins in Sierra Leone

A new United Methodist ministry of malaria control will mobilize already existing church-related medical facilities and their personnel to strike out against malaria. The program will pilot in Sierra Leone—a West African nation with a strong United Methodist network and a big malaria problem. Sub-Saharan Africa is hardest hit in the malaria pandemic.

The initiative is sponsored by the General Board of Global Ministries, the church's mission board, and implemented by its health ministries arm and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

Photo: Reuters/Karen Iley, courtesy www.alertnet.org

Controlling the Mosquito

The culprit is a parasite that lives inside the anopheles mosquito. The parasite invades human tissue when the mosquito bites. Controlling the mosquito population is the biggest obstacle because some pesticides harm both people and environment. Some interesting approaches being explored by UMCOR include introducing larvae-eating fish into breeding waters; distributing neem oil—as effective a repellent as DEET; and sealing stagnant water surfaces with special polystyrene. The regular use of nets is another key. “Malaria control can be as simple as using a treated mosquito net,” said Paul Dirdak, UMCOR director.

Community Focus

An effective defense against malaria requires community mobilization to build a sense of local ownership. The pilot program in Sierra Leone will take advantage of trained personnel, capacity, and passion for rolling back malaria. Medical personnel there will also train community leaders in causes, prevention, and treatment with the most effective drugs.

Dream with Us: End Malaria

The new program will also promote the upgrading of United Methodist Health facilities. It's a big dream, but we are thinking of nothing less than a world without malaria. You can help!

How to Give

Support United Methodist efforts to help end malaria in Africa through **UMCOR Advance #982009, Malaria Control**. Write the Advance # and name on your offering envelope and in the memo line of your check.

By Offering For local church and Annual Conference credit, put your gift in the offering plate on Sunday.

By Check Make your check to UMCOR and send to UMCOR, PO Box 9068, New York, NY 10087-9068.

By Credit Card Call toll-free (800) 554-8583

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