



Katie Van Zante and Conor O'Herin show off their mosquito piñata they made for a Malaria Day event. Picture provided by Conor O'Herin.

Tanzania Malaria Team Bulletin

Peace Corps Tanzania Malaria Team's
Tri-annual Newsletter
Volume 1 Issue 1 ☘ February – May 2015

Issue Edited by: Holly Trace

CHALLENGE FOR A CAUSE

BY: DJ SMITH

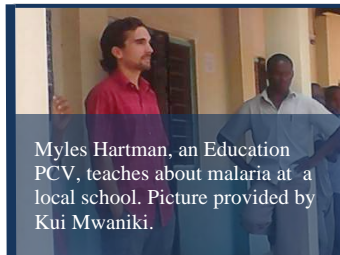
On April 25th the entire planet marked World Malaria Day by bringing awareness and revitalizing efforts to fight this deadly disease. But for Peace Corps, one day was not enough. Peace Corps took the concept behind World Malaria Day and expanded this one-day event to encompass the entire month of April. Thus every year Peace Corps posts all over Africa redouble their efforts to bring greater awareness and knowledge to their host communities and engage people from the U.S. in conversations about how malaria impacts these communities.

To mark Malaria Month 2015, the Tanzania Malaria Team (TMT) decided to put a challenge out to all Volunteers: how many malaria activities can you do in a month? Thus the Malaria Month Challenge was born. The TMT divided Tanzania into 6 super regions, and each region would endeavor to reach as many community members in as many ways as possible. Each activity was allocated a certain number of points based on the time and effort an activity took and worth was ultimately determined by a consensus from the Malaria Team. Over the course of the month activities were reported to the TMT members who tallied the points to determine who did the most activities and who reached the most people. Incentives came with this Challenge: the top Super-Region and the top individuals received prizes for their hard work and efforts.

The World Malaria Month Challenge ran from April 1st until May 12th. The activities ranged from social media to community outreach. Involvement included something as simple as changing your Facebook profile picture, “liking” the Stomping Out Malaria Facebook page, following the movement on other social media or writing a blog. It didn’t just stop there; Volunteers were encouraged to reach out to their schools and communities through various projects such as hanging up bed nets or educating primary and secondary school students on the importance of preparing their lives to prevent malaria.

At the end of the World Malaria Month Challenge, over 240 projects were completed in all six of the regions, amounting to hundreds of hours and dedication of time and resources to ensure the reduction of malaria all across Tanzania. It has been an emotional and fulfilling experience, and we are looking forward to setting higher goals for the 2016 World Malaria Month.

IN THIS ISSUE:



Myles Hartman, an Education PCV, teaches about malaria at a local school. Picture provided by Kui Mwaniki.

Page 2:
Malaria
Education
School
Tour



Nets hung in secondary school's dorms. Picture provided by Kelly Anderson.

Page 3:
Nets, Nets,
Nets



Children run to show cost of malaria in their village. Picture provided by Adam Nothem.

Page 4:
Visualizing
the Cost of
Malaria



People gather for a Malaria Day event in Newala district. Picture provided by Adam Nothem.

Page 5:
More
Volunteer
Activities



Villagers gather for a Mobile Video Unit showing *Chumo*. Picture provided by Adam Nothem.

Page 6:
Thanks and
Facts

CHALLENGE WINNERS



Picture provided by Adam Nothem.

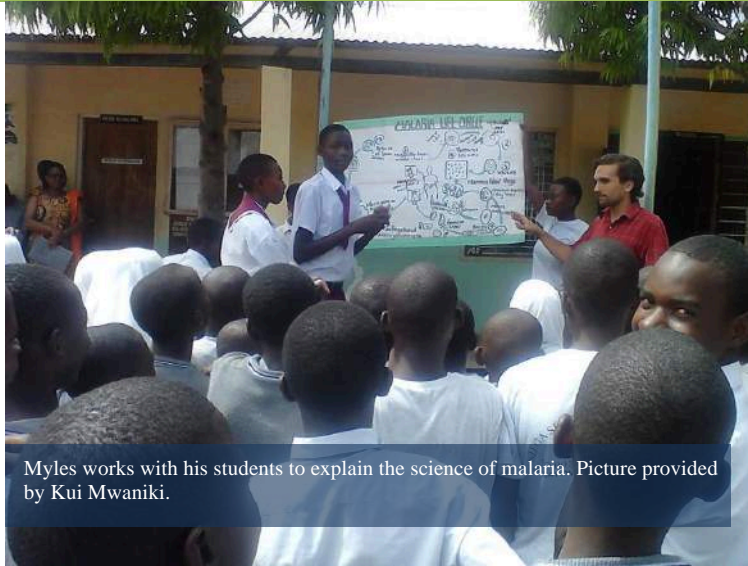
Adam Nothem, a Health PCV in Mtwara region, is one of our individual winners, having reached over 10,000 people.

Super Region Winner: Deep South (Lindi, Mtwara and Ruvuma) where 70% of all Volunteers serving in this region participated and together reached an estimated 18,661 people.



Picture provided by Myles Hartman.

Myles Hartman, an Education PCV in Tabora region, is our other individual winner, having traveled to 10 schools and reached approximately 1,500 students.



Myles works with his students to explain the science of malaria. Picture provided by Kui Mwaniki.



Picture provided by Kui Mwaniki.

Myles' students present their posters and explain the malaria life cycle to a group of their peers from a nearby school.

MALARIA EDUCATION SCHOOL TOUR

BY: DJ SMITH

One of the most effective methods of getting a message heard is reaching out to students: the next generation of parents and decision makers. The opportunities available have allowed many Volunteers to reach out to their communities in unique ways.

Myles Hartman teaches biology at a secondary school in Tabora region. For the Malaria Month Challenge he decided to teach his students about malaria first, and then have the students translate their new knowledge into Swahili and create posters to then go out and teach others about malaria. Myles then proceeded to travel with his students to surrounding secondary and primary schools where he and his students would teach new audiences about the science of malaria as well as malaria prevention and treatment.

All told, the travelling malaria educators visited 10 schools (8 secondary and 2 primary) and reached approximately 1,500 students. One school was so impressed with the students' teaching, that they presented them with 5,000 Tsh as a reward.

As with most Peace Corps activities, Myles wanted to make this project as sustainable as possible, so what better way than to first teach his students and then help them teach others. This project not only reached a large number of people, but the act of teaching their peers allowed the student facilitators to gain ownership of the material and truly grow to understand it--increasing the likelihood that they will remember and adhere to the messages they helped spread. Myles' project has the potential for a lasting impact.



Picture provided by Kui Mwaniki.

Myles sits back and watches his students facilitate a lesson.

"My students did so well the school paid them!"

-Myles Hartman



Picture provided by Kelly Anderson.

NETS, NETS, NETS

BY: KELLY ANDERSON AND HOLLY TRACE

As of 2012, approximately 73% of Tanzanians households have at least one bed net or sleep in an IRS* treated household. Studies have shown that once people are in the habit of using their bed nets, they will continue to use them correctly and continue to protect themselves and their families through the use of them. But getting someone to form habits around net usage is not as simple as providing someone with a net, as Kelly Anderson, an Education Volunteer found out.

Kelly Anderson and his wife, Ven, are teachers at a secondary school in Kilimanjaro region. Their primary assignments are teaching English and Math respectively, but both look for other project opportunities. One day, while helping to clear a space for a temporary library, Kelly came across three large bags of bed nets that had previously been donated to the school, but never used.

Upon making this discovery, he decided to learn a little more about the malaria situation in his community as well as the status of the dorms inhabited by over 400 boarding students. Through this investigation, Kelly quickly realized two things: 1. The dorms had no nets hung and 2. Malaria, despite not being a major issue in the region in general, was the second leading ailment in his area. Armed with this knowledge, Kelly couldn't help but wonder, "Why are we not using these nets?"

Working with his school leaders, Kelly assisted in hanging the nets in the dorms, but along the way he realized that the shape of the nets, rectangular, only worked for the lower bunks in the dormitory and conical nets were needed. With the goal of every bed having a net in mind, Kelly applied for a small Peace Corps grant to aid in buying conical nets and used these funds to purchase 77 new nets. Not wanting to waste the left over rectangular nets, Kelly and Ven were able to convert an additional 12 rectangular nets to conical nets using five-gallon bucket lids and some rope.

In the end, over 400 bed nets were hung, but Kelly quickly realized that more education surrounding bed net use was needed to help change student attitudes towards their new nets.

With the aim to educate in mind, Kelly started integrating malaria education into his classroom English lessons as well as into his English club. He worked with dorm supervisors to help institute a net-check to help remind students of proper use as well as monitoring the state of the nets. In addition to all of these ways he integrated the conversation about malaria and nets into everyday life, he also invited two Malaria Team members, Ben Welna and John Cox, to come to his school. Together they orchestrated a large-scale Malaria Day event, which helped cement malaria science, prevention and treatment in the minds of the students. Kelly's project succeeded in changing net use culture at his school. The hope is that students will continue to use bed nets regardless of their location because of the constant, positive reinforcement at school and that they will spread the information to their peers and families.

"Why are we not using these nets?" – KELLY ANDERSON

*IRS=Indoor Residual Spraying



Kelly helps prepare his students for some malaria games, designed to teach students about malaria transmission and the proper use of nets. Picture provided by Kelly Anderson.

Fast Facts:

27%

Total amount of PCVs who did a malaria project during the month-long Challenge

47%

Total percentage of Health Volunteers who participated in the Challenge

43%

Total percentage of Agriculture Volunteers who participated in the Challenge

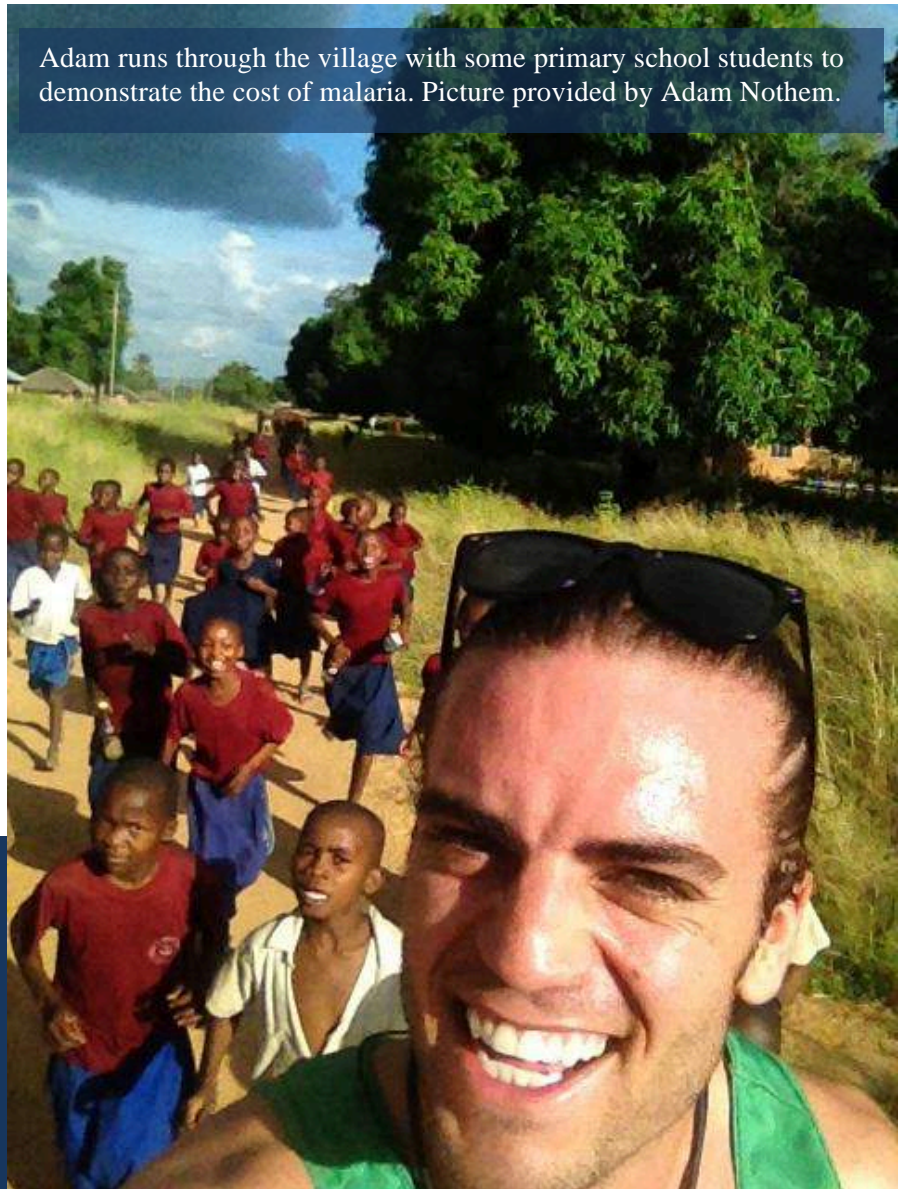
VISUALIZING THE COST OF MALARIA:

Making the Economic Impact Tangible
BY: ADAM NOTHEM AND HOLLY TRACE

Malaria impacts a community in ways beyond an individual's health, but many people overlook the economic impact. Every year, Africans spend millions to treat malaria while they simultaneously lose millions due to missed work and lower productivity. Adam Nothem, a Health Volunteer in Mtwara region, decided to learn the actual economic cost of malaria in his village. Utilizing the clinic's records, he calculated the number of confirmed cases (4,320). Then accounting for the cost of testing, treatment, and average income lost due to missed work, Adam estimated about 47,520,000 Tanzanian Shillings (Tsh), roughly \$25,000 USD, were spent or lost last year due to malaria in his village alone.

This number is so large that most villagers cannot really understand how devastating this ailment is on their local economy.

Adam runs through the village with some primary school students to demonstrate the cost of malaria. Picture provided by Adam Nothem.



In order to make this number more tangible and understandable to the community Adam decided to create a visual representation using an everyday commodity-- phone vouchers.

In Adam's village, a person can purchase phone voucher for 500 Tsh, or about 30 cents, and with it one can buy 300 texts, 100MB, and 28 minutes of talk time. Voucher is something nearly everyone buys and needs on some level and hates paying for, so it worked as a good illustration of what the money spent on malaria could have purchased the village: 28,512,000 texts, 9,504,000MB, and 2,661,120 minutes.

These numbers were still a little big, so Adam took the visualization one step further. He measured the voucher and found it to be about 4 cm long so if all the voucher that could have been purchased were laid end-to-end they would stretch 3.8 km. Rather than make a paper chain of voucher 3.8km long, Adam decided to run that distance with the help of 370 primary school students. The stampede through the village brought a crowd and more kids joined in along the way. Adam stopped periodically along the way to explain why they were running— not a popular activity in villages. In the end, people were left with a better understanding how much money was being spent on treating malaria.

THANK-YOU'S AND FUTURE PLANS

Peace Corps Tanzania was thrilled to take this large step in combating malaria with so many friends and supporters. The only way to move from this point is forward, and we could not do it without the support of Peace Corps staff and the many organizations that assisted us along the way. A special thanks to the National Malaria Control Program, the President's Malaria Initiative, Johns Hopkins University and Population Services International for their continued support whether it be through resources shared or time given to help make these events a success. While World Malaria Month 2015 has come to an end, our efforts to create long-lasting change in Tanzania have not. There are more projects to be completed, communities to reach and students to educate. This month has been insightful and humbling, and has only energized us all further. It's time to take the next step, to continue old projects and to start new ones, to motivate the youth and instill prevention in communities that we serve.

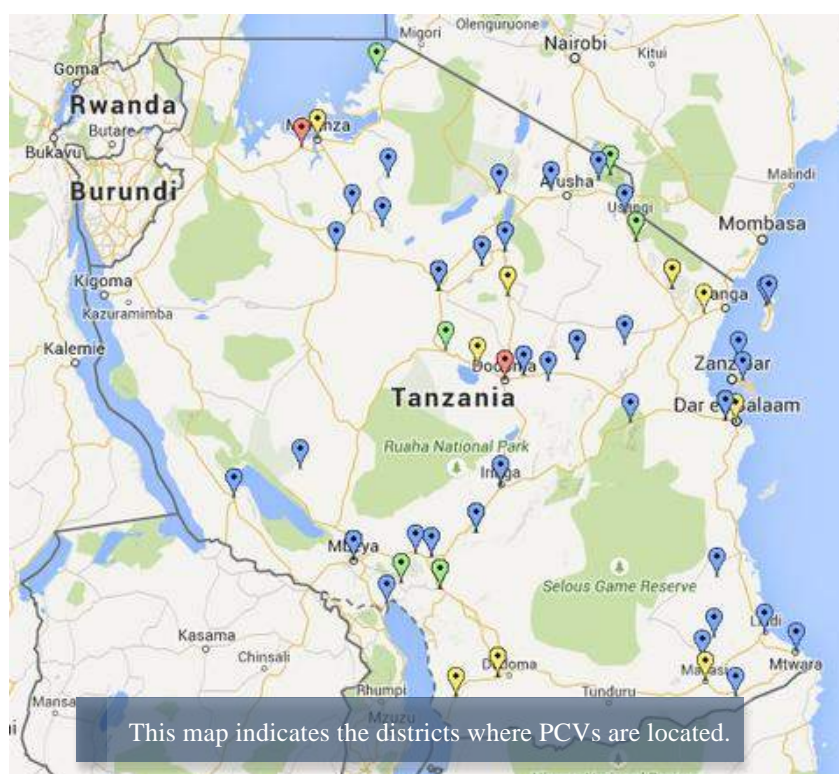
PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

- 192 Volunteers serving in the sectors of Education, Agriculture, Health and Global Health Service Partnership
- 60 districts in 23 regions across Tanzania are currently served by Volunteers
- 100% of Volunteers trained in malaria basics
- 16 Volunteers and one staff member have attended an intensive international malaria training
- 13 Volunteers and their 13 respective community counterparts have attended an extensive domestic malaria training
- 2 Volunteers have extended for a third year to continue their work with malaria



Contact Us:
Endesh Mollle: emolle@peacecorps.gov
Holly Trace: htrace@peacecorps.gov

WHERE ARE PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS SERVING?



Peace Corps Malaria Work

The Tanzania Malaria Team is the Tanzanian Chapter of Peace Corps's Stomping Out Malaria in Africa initiative. The Stomping Out Malaria in Africa initiative is a partnership between the President's Malaria Initiative and the Peace Corps. Also supporting the Stomping efforts: Johns Hopkins University, University of South Florida, the CDC, PATH, Malaria No More, and numerous local organizations in host countries across Africa. This initiative aims to have universal bed net coverage and malaria prevention and treatment education programs in every malaria-impacted Peace Corps community in the initial target countries and work with partners to achieve two Millenium Challenge goals: a 50% or more reduction in deaths caused by malaria globally by 2015 and a substantial reduction in deaths caused by malaria in all 25 African target countries by 2020.

For more information visit: www.stompingoutmalariainafrica.org

