

Tanzania Malaria Bulletin

Peace Corps Tanzania Malaria Team's Tri-annual Newsletter

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ISSUE EDITED BY: HOLLY TRACE



Primary school students in Mtwaru show off their new bed nets for Adam Nothem, one of 22 Volunteers who worked to prepare their communities for the School Net Distribution program in August 2015. Photo provided by Adam Nothem.

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION: INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOL NET PROGRAM EDUCATES THOUSANDS

Over 2500 students take part in activities by Volunteers in Mtwaru, Lindi and Ruvuma regions to promote awareness about malaria prevention and net use techniques.

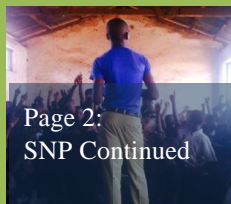
Leslie Rose Kwiatkowski is one of the 22 Peace Corps Volunteers who have been working to help communities in southern Tanzania prepare for the annual School Net Program (SNP), a USAID-funded initiative that distributes mosquito nets to primary school students in Mtwaru, Lindi and Ruvuma regions.

At her primary school in rural Ruvuma, Leslie circles the room as her class draws their “dream banners” – an activity which encourages students to think about the goals they can achieve if they stay healthy and sleep under a mosquito net every night. Leslie stops at one student, Laitnes, and looks over her shoulder.

“So you want to be a teacher?” Leslie asks, prompting Laitnes to look up. The six-year-old nods, and Leslie smiles back. “That’s great! You can do it!” The girl grins at the encouragement. She then goes back to drawing her aspirations for the future, and Leslie moves on to the next student.

Volunteers like Leslie have been working with Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs (CCP) and the Tanzania Communication and Development Center (TCDC) to successfully reach out to more than 2500 primary school students in the weeks leading up to the net distribution. (Continued page 2)

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Through CCP's *Patapata* radio program, students learn about malaria prevention and the importance of proper mosquito net use and maintenance, and are acting as positive behavior change agents in their households and communities.

In addition to the radio program, Volunteers have trained community counterparts and student leaders to facilitate to their peers, worked with students to create over 1000 dream banners, distributed awareness materials to nearby health facilities, and taken part in post-distribution monitoring to provide feedback for future distributions.

"Working with CCP on preparation for the School Net Program has been a great experience," says Branden Ryan, a Volunteer in rural Lindi region. "The *Patapata* radio program was not only engaging, but fun for the kids as well."

To help maximize the impact of his activities, Branden trained eleven students from his local secondary school. Together, they were able to facilitate lessons at three nearby primary schools.

"The point of using students as facilitators was to have an added component of capacity building," says Branden. "These secondary students were able to act as mentors to their younger peers."

Following the distribution, many Volunteers are planning to continue using the *Patapata* radio program for future malaria education activities in their communities.



Photo provided by Branden Ryan

Justince Augustine, a secondary student, leads a malaria prevention lesson. Justince is one of eleven student leaders trained by Volunteer Branden Ryan for community outreach.



Photo provided by Kory Funk

Volunteer Haeli Gustafson points out a poster for the School Net Program outside her village office in rural Mtwara.

Volunteer Spotlight: Kory Funk



Kory Funk is a third-year extension Volunteer from Columbus, Ohio. He spent his first two years of service in a rural village in the Mtwara region, working in his community to train community health workers and develop health interventions at local schools. His work was recognized last year when his counterpart, Salum Kabugo, was named Peace Corps' 2014 Malaria Hero.

Kory currently works with the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs (CCP) in Dar es Salaam supporting CCP affiliates and promoting collaboration between CCP programs and Peace Corps Volunteers. His responsibilities include coordinating and supporting Volunteers who work with CCP and affiliated projects such as the School Net Program and the *Wazazi Nipendeni* safe motherhood campaign.

During the School Net Program bed net distribution ramp up, Kory traveled to the three regions involved (Lindi, Mtwara and Ruvuma) to mobilize Volunteers and distribute radios. These radios were preloaded with a CCP malaria radio spot, *PataPata*, geared towards educating children and preparing them for the distribution. He also ensured that Volunteers stayed up to date on any program changes so they could better support the communities they serve. While coordinating this, Kory also helped organize *Wazazi Nipendeni* materials for Volunteers and introduced the program to the 2015 Health and Agriculture cohort. Through his work with these two projects and more, Kory has played a large role in optimizing the Peace Corps and CCP partnership here in Tanzania.

FROM TRAINING TO THE VILLAGE:

IMPLEMENTING LESSONS LEARNED

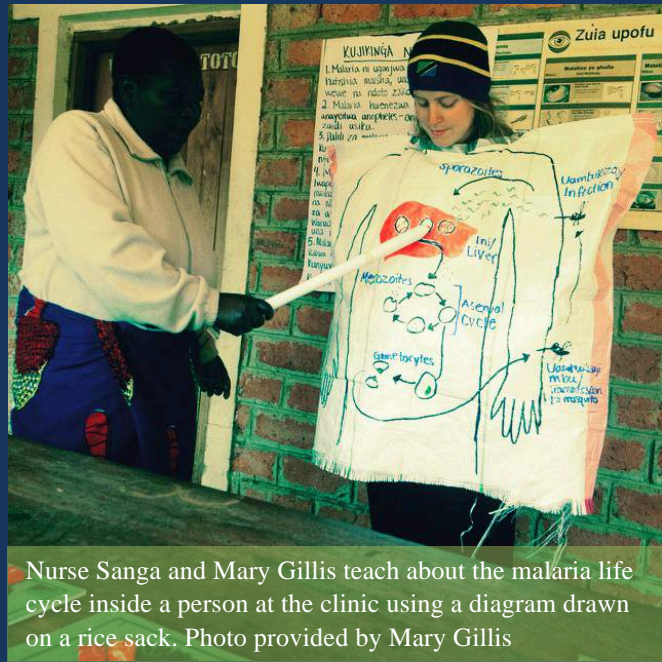
BY: HOLLY TRACE

Starting projects in a village can be daunting, especially for new Volunteers. The malaria Training of Trainers (TOT) is geared toward making it easier to get started through providing participants with foundational knowledge, concrete project examples, and the tools needed to begin activities in their communities. Volunteers attend the TOT with one counterpart to help with implementation and to ensure the sustainability of malaria work at the village level. Mary Gillis, a Health Volunteer in Njombe region, decided to attend the training after discussions with health care workers revealed that malaria was one of the top 5 illnesses treated at the clinic. This news surprised Mary, as Njombe in general, has a low incidence rate of malaria.

Mary's counterpart, a clinic nurse, Bethseba Sanga said, "Our community doesn't believe that malaria is a problem..."



Leah, a primary school student, reads True/False statements as a part of the *Nightwatch* program. Photo provided by Mary Gillis.



Nurse Sanga and Mary Gillis teach about the malaria life cycle inside a person at the clinic using a diagram drawn on a rice sack. Photo provided by Mary Gillis

This belief keeps people from taking proper precautions, not just at home, but when they travel as well. Safety comes with behavioral change, and behavioral change comes with knowledge. The more educated a community is about a health issue such as malaria; the more likely the correct precautions will be taken to prevent the disease from entering a household. Thus Mary and Nurse Sanga attended the training to build their own knowledge and learn new ways to address the malaria problem in their village.

At the training Mary and Nurse Sanga learned about the malaria situation in Tanzania and the science behind the disease and how malaria can negatively impact people living with HIV—HIV/AIDS being the number one health issue in the Njombe area. They learned different teaching techniques and games to engage youth around the subject matter. At the end of the training Mary told facilitators, "I'm excited to get back to my village and start doing projects, now that I know what I can do."

Riding this excitement, Mary and Nurse Sanga began implementing projects immediately. Within a week of leaving the training, they held their own TOT at the clinic. They trained all the health care workers and a few interested teachers from local schools on the science, prevention, and treatment of malaria. Since this initial activity they also taught a group for HIV+ women about the added risks malaria presents to people with weakened immune systems. Nurse Sanga also travelled to a neighboring clinic to do a similar training, while Mary stayed in the village and started the Malaria No More's *Nightwatch: An Education Program to End Malaria* at the two primary schools in her community.

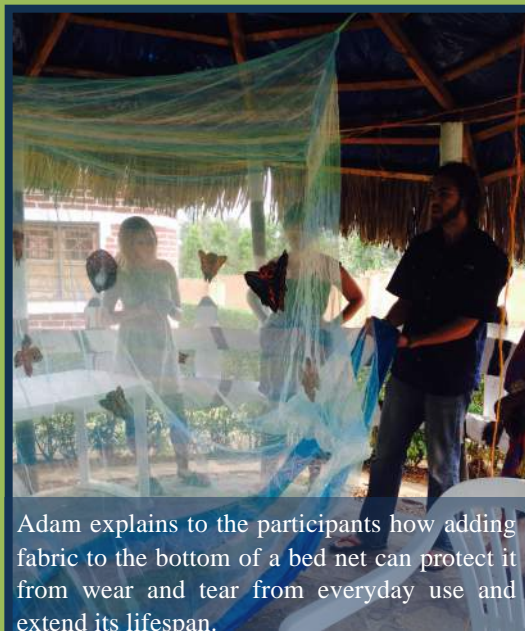
Mary, Nurse Sanga, and the people that have joined them are excited about the work they have started and the knowledge that comes with it. They look forward to continue spreading awareness and education within their community and beyond.

TRAINING ON NET USE



Adam Nothem, a member of the Tanzania Malaria Team serving in the Mtwara region, teaches training participants to properly hang a bed net using easily found materials.

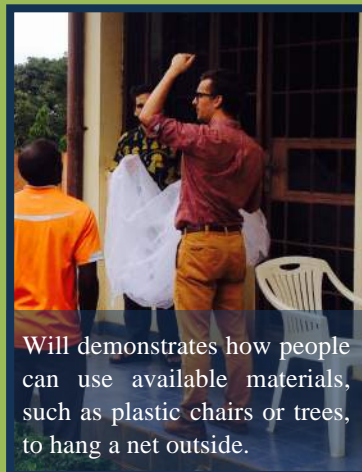
Bed nets are the main preventative measure against malaria in Tanzania, so it is important that community members know how to hang and take care of their net to ensure the nets' efficacy and prolong their lifespan. Thus, the Tanzania Malaria Team (TMT) breaks down net use and care for participants at the most recent training.



Adam explains to the participants how adding fabric to the bottom of a bed net can protect it from wear and tear from everyday use and extend its lifespan.



Will Stafstrom and Sarah Munteanu, members of the Malaria Team serving in the Lindi and Njombe regions respectively, demonstrate how participants can convert a square net to a conical net using a bucket lid and rope.



Will demonstrates how people can use available materials, such as plastic chairs or trees, to hang a net outside.



Jocelyn Keranen, a member of the TMT and serving in Manyara, demonstrates how to mend torn bed nets and discusses how to properly clean a net.



Volunteers and counterparts practice mending net using two different methods: simple sewing of the hole with thread and application of a fun patch.

Photos provided by Holly Trace



The Health and Agriculture 2015 Volunteers and their counterparts pose in their *Wazazi Nipendeni* t-shirts after they completed their orientation of the program. Photo provided by Kory Funk

VOLUNTEERS EXCITED TO SUPPORT

WAZAZI NIPENDENI

BY: KORY FUNK

With 21 pregnant women and 180 infants dying every day, Tanzania's maternal and infant mortality rates are among the highest in the world. Now, working with the *Wazazi Nipendeni* safe motherhood campaign, over 60 Peace Corps Volunteers around the country have answered the call to combat maternal and infant mortality in their communities.

Wazazi Nipendeni is a USAID-funded campaign being implemented by the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs and the Tanzania Communication and Development Center (TCDC). The campaign revolves around a proven SMS service developed by mHealth. Once registered, participants with the campaign receive appointment notifications and other helpful advice meant to ensure a safe delivery.

Peace Corps Volunteers are working to orient local health facilities to the campaign, and are raising awareness for the SMS service by placing promotional materials around their communities and in district towns. Volunteers are also helping pregnant women and those with young children register for the SMS service, and are assisting with the creation of life-saving individual birth plans.

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SMS service, and are assisting with the creation of life-saving individual birth plans.

With its focus on safe motherhood, it comes as no surprise that malaria is one of the health issues *Wazazi* educates expectant and new mothers on. From text messages reminding them to take their SP as a preventative treatment to reduce the risk of malaria while pregnant to encouraging pregnant women to sleep under bed nets, malaria is one of several issues the *Wazazi* campaign addresses. Peace Corps Volunteers helped with this malaria education at the *Wazazi Nipendeni* launch in Dar es Salaam in late July where three Volunteers (Holly Trace, Shubira Bocko, and Kory Funk) did a bed net demonstration and answered questions regarding net use and malaria in general.

TCDC program officer Pamela Kweka is thrilled with Peace Corps involvement in the campaign. "Peace Corps Volunteers are our best partners working in rural communities," she says. "They're getting the message out to areas that are difficult to reach."



Shubira Bocko, a Peace Corps Volunteer serving in Dodoma, explains proper net use to her young audience. Photo provided by Holly Trace

Implementing Partner Shout Out!

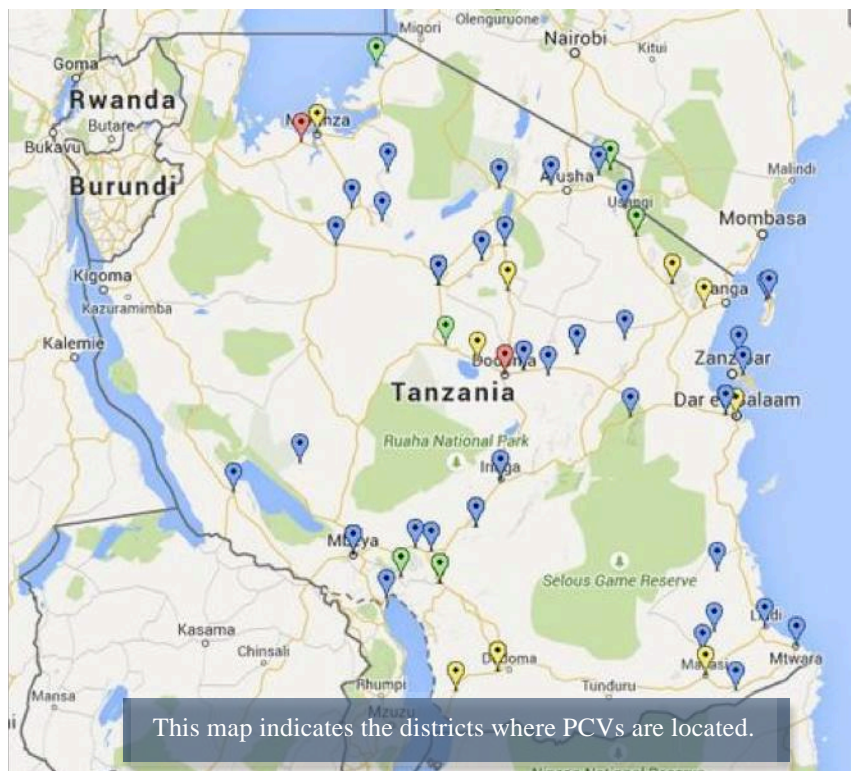
Peace Corps Tanzania is lucky to have so many wonderful implementing partners—especially with regards to the malaria work we do. We wanted to take a moment to send a special thank you to Johns Hopkins University, specifically the Center for Communication Programs (CCP), and the Tanzania Communication and Development Center (TCDC). In the past few months these organizations have worked closely with Volunteers during the School Net Program (SNP) and *Wazazi Neipendeni* and together we have reached thousands of people with Behavior Change Communication (BCC). While the SNP has concluded for the year, Volunteers continue to work with TCDC to spread *Wazazi Neipendeni* messaging at the village level. We appreciate all the hard work these organizations do and we look forward to continuing these strong partnerships!



PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

- 220 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
- 8 Volunteers and one staff member have attended an intensive international malaria training
- 23 Volunteers and their 23 respective community counterparts have attended an extensive domestic malaria training
- 2 Volunteers have extended for a third year to continue their work with malaria

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 Stomp 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 target countries and work with partners to achieve two Millennium 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.



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