

Community Health

After months of planning, funding has now been approved for a series of public health campaigns in Chad and Cameroon that will fight malaria, prevent cholera, and renovate health clinics. The programs will be implemented through partnerships between the Project, the national ministries of health, and local and national NGOs. Funding for the community projects, a total of \$1.5 million, will come from the ExxonMobil Foundation as part of a new charitable giving program called the Africa Health Initiative.

Africa Health Initiative Projects

Chad

- Each year the Chadian Ministry of Health conducts a major measles vaccination program. That annual campaign, which reaches thousands of people, will be leveraged to fight malaria in addition to measles. Every adult who accompanies a child under five years to a vaccination post for a measles immunization will receive a free anti-mosquito bednet. The American Red Cross and the World Health Organization are involved in implementing the effort. Africa Health Initiative funding is being matched by additional funds from the UN Foundation.
- Some years ago the Project donated a clinic building to be operated by the government of Chad in the oilfield area community of Komé. In the coming year an Africa Health Initiative community grant will fund renovations and major upgrades at the clinic. The grant will be administered by the Centre de Support en Sante Internationale de Institut Tropical Suisse au Tchad, and the partners include the Chadian Ministry of Health, the Chad Christian Assembly, and the Development Action Bureau. This is the first of a series of clinic renovations projected for southern Chad in the coming years.

Cameroon

- Funding has been provided for a social marketing program to distribute 120,000 long-lasting insecticide treated bednets in six provincial areas of Cameroon. The Africa Health Initiative funding will make it possible to operate a national malaria fighting campaign in Cameroon, in cooperation with the Cameroonian Ministry of Health and the Cameroonian affiliate of the international NGO Population Services International. Funding for the

project from the Africa Health Initiative is being expanded by additional funding from USAID.

- For another anti-malaria program, the successful west African “Help Us Help” campaign will be extended to Cameroon under the auspices of the Academy for Educational Development and Netmark. The program teaches preventative actions and distributes discount vouchers for long-lasting insecticide treated bednets to pregnant women. Funding from the Africa Health Initiative is being matched by USAID.
- A major cholera epidemic in Douala in 2004 has been traced to poor water and poor sanitation practices in several poverty-stricken districts of the city. Funding is being provided by an Africa Health Initiative grant to operate a systematic education campaign. The campaign will use local health committee members, community leaders and local associations to influence and educate at the neighborhood and household level. Implementation will be through partnerships with Programme German Cameronais Sante/Sida and the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ).



Planning for the series of Africa Health Initiative projects in Chad and Cameroon has been underway for months. At COTCO, Public Affairs Manager Guillaume Kwele (left) has been working with Dr. Paul Essomba (right) to design a scope of work for three anti-malaria and anti-cholera programs. In Chad, Dr. Malick Douga (left) examines clinic renovation and upgrade plans with Dr. Daugla Doumagoum Moto (right), Director in Chad for the Swiss Tropical Institute.

Annual Summary: Community Health

In addition to the items described above for the fourth quarter, the following developments took place in the first three quarters of 2004.

First Quarter
2004

- The Project-supported Roll Back Malaria campaign in Cameroon completed distribution of anti-mosquito bed nets in its five targeted

communities. The final distribution of 4,000 nets covered the Lolodorf area, including over a dozen surrounding small villages.

- The Project distributed a quantity of surplus medical supplies to the hospital in Kribi, Cameroon. The donated medicine and other supplies was valued at approximately six million FCFA.
- A needs assessment study was started at the five clinics serving oilfield area communities in southern Chad. The study will support decision making over the next several years on an array of upgrades being considered for the clinics as part of the Africa Health Initiative.

Second Quarter
2004

- The Fourth African Day Against Malaria was held. In Cameroon, the Project donated 600 anti-mosquito bed nets to three hospitals and an orphanage.

Third Quarter
2004

- To aid the community of N'Djaména, Chad, in response to a severe cholera epidemic, the Project funded an additional treatment and isolation camp. Over 2,200 people had been treated at the two existing camps and 109 people had died as a result of the epidemic.

