

Community Health

Community health initiatives for the second quarter ranged from a unique theatrical approach to HIV/AIDS education to the ongoing implementation of Roll Back Malaria initiatives.

HIV/AIDS A Chadian theatrical troupe, Les Benjamin, completed a village HIV/AIDS education program this quarter in southern Chad. Performances took place in 38 villages, reaching more than 20,000 residents. In addition, the troupe performed for more than 1,500 Project workers at four construction camps. The powerful fable performed by the troupe includes a Mr. AIDS character who tells the audience that his victims invite him to kill them, and that he hopes they won't use the easy prevention methods that help diminish his power. (Please see the pictures at the end of this section.)

Roll Back Malaria Chad
The Roll Back Malaria program for southern Chad continued its village-by-village outreach effort this quarter. The two NGOs implementing the program, AMASOT and ACODE, put on their programs in 87 villages, with nearly 29,900 people attending.

One of the NGOs has also been contracted to include an HIV/AIDS awareness element in its Project-sponsored village health education programs. During the quarter, AMASOT handed out 54,000 condoms and established 12 new condom distribution points in villages in southern Chad, in addition to revisiting the 56 distribution points established last year in the area of the road upgrade project. (Please see the pictures at the end of this section.)

Cameroon

Preparations continued this quarter for the launch of the Roll Back Malaria program in Cameroon, which should take place by the end of this year.

- A total of 35,000 anti-mosquito bed nets have been ordered and will soon be on their way to Cameroon for distribution.

- A Yaoundé-based NGO, the Centre d'Animation Social et Sanitaire, has been identified to distribute the bed nets.
- A major planning meeting was held in April in Kribi, with World Health Organization officials in attendance. Protocols were agreed on several issues, including the proper medicine and dosage for the treatment of pregnant women infected with malaria.

Community
Health Support

In addition to the Roll Back Malaria and HIV/AIDS education programs, the Project has implemented a number of additional initiatives as part of its Community Health Outreach Program this quarter.

- A screening was conducted for curable sexually transmitted diseases at Bam, Bitoye, and Sakara villages in southern Chad. Well over 300 people were examined, about half of whom tested positive, and treatment was provided to them free of charge. The screening campaign included a public health education program to teach residents about sexually transmitted diseases.
- A report has been completed on the Project's interim tuberculosis treatment program in some Bagyeli/Bakola settlements in southern Cameroon. A total of 148 people have been treated since the initiative began in 2001. (For information on a new tuberculosis treatment effort for the Bagyeli/Bakola, please see the section on the *Environmental Foundation*.)
- The Project has provided a building, basic start-up medical supplies, electricity, and water for an interim clinic in the Dompta area. The clinic replaces the good Samaritan health care that had been provided by the Project's road upgrade contractor at its construction camp, which has demobilized from the area. (For more information on the interim clinic please see *Issues & Actions* in the section on *Consultation & Communications*.)



The Les Benjamin play opens with a couple arguing (upper left). A young village woman has died of AIDS and the husband confesses to his wife that he - and therefore the wife - may be infected with HIV. Guilt overwhelms the husband and he kills himself, sending his village friends into mourning (upper middle). Mr. AIDS makes his appearance and the village elders put him on trial (upper right). The conclusion of the trial takes an unexpected turn: a decision that Mr. AIDS is not guilty (lower left), because the people who get HIV bring on their own deaths by not using condoms to prevent infection. The crowd stands stunned as Mr. AIDS then speaks directly to them (lower right) and tells them he hopes they will not use condoms, and that they will continue making the mistake of inviting him into their beds so they can join him in death.



In southern Chad, all of the AMASOT Roll Back Malaria sessions begin by gathering a crowd, calling the village together with loud dance music (upper left). The gathered crowd then receives instructions on preventing malaria, including the proper use of anti-mosquito bed nets to prevent insect bites (upper right). To make sure the lessons have taken hold, the team then interacts with the audience, asking questions in quiz style (middle). Then, based on a village census, bed nets are distributed to households (bottom). In this case the bed nets come with a supply of condoms as part of the Project's ongoing HIV/AIDS education campaign.