

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

Seek & Serve

Episcopal Relief & Development
Healing a hurting world

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***NetsforLife*® Not Only Prevents Malaria; It Also Heals the Wounds of Conflict**

It's bad enough for African families to deal with the scourge of malaria, whether it's repeated illnesses that sap people's strength and productivity or the unspeakable horror of losing

the life of a child. But for refugees in war-torn countries that are also malaria-prone, their misery is multiplied exponentially.

This has been the harsh reality for many people in the Ituri Province of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) who have been internally displaced by ongoing fighting. Most of them don't even have a bed to sleep in, much less a place to hang a net, so they are that much more vulnerable to malaria. Or so they thought.



Cletus Asare teaches a class about net use.

Their lives changed thanks to a field visit to the Diocese of Boga by Cletus Asare, *NetsforLife*®'s program support and logistics officer. Volunteers had just finished hanging up 22,000 malaria nets in four program sites, and Cletus traveled there to train them in the net phase of the effort — to build long-lasting cultures of net usage in their communities. At one workshop in the village of Bukiringi, something magical happened.

"After about three and half hours of training and demonstration on how long-lasting insecticide-treated

nets can be hung anywhere—even over a local mat laid on the floor—the level of excitement was so high that a training that was meant for about 30 volunteers almost became a public awareness session," Cletus recalled.

"The church building was filled to capacity, with people outside listening through the windows," he said. "Even the national army commander, who was leading a battalion of soldiers to keep peace in the area, was present to learn about this simple but life-saving innovation. For once, the community members' constant fear of attack and ever-nagging feeling of hopelessness seemed to have been submerged in excitement and the hope that they too, in a way, are beginning to live normal lives."



Men distribute nets in Boga, DRC.

**"Long-lasting insecticide-treated
nets can be hung anywhere."**

"With some basic technology and training, *NetsforLife*® is transforming communities like Bukiringi across the continent," Cletus said. "No



Children in Boga DRC with their new net.

wonder the net retention and usage rates in our program areas are the highest in the world. For me as a public health scientist, this work couldn't be more exciting!"

NetsforLife® Inspiration Fund

Guest Column

The Most Rev. Dr. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church

Episcopalians strive to bring the reign of God here on earth, to build a just society that demonstrates love for our neighbor. We do this by sharing God's love in all we do, through actions big and small, in family, church, and community.

Episcopal Relief & Development offers a powerful opportunity to share God's love on a global scale by empowering people to build a better life for themselves and their families. The Episcopal Church birthed this remarkable organization and continues to enthusiastically and wholeheartedly support it. As Honorary Chair, I want to thank you for your support.

That support of Episcopal Relief & Development brings us closer to a Godly society of peace and justice. Together, we can help to build a world where all people have access to nutritious food, have a better chance at a healthy start to life, where girls and boys have access to basic primary education, where the gifts of women are honored and developed in ways that have far too often been denied them, and where diseases like HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria are prevented and treated.

"The NetsforLife® Inspiration Fund will take us closer to our ultimate destination: a world where malaria no longer diminishes or ends the lives of God's children."

Our Church has made malaria a special priority because of the horrific toll it takes on children—truly the "least of these," as Jesus said in Matthew 25:40—and because of the transformative effects of tackling this disease.

NetsforLife® is a central focus of The Episcopal Church's response to the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals. We continue to urge dioceses, congregations, and individuals throughout the Church to share in the *NetsforLife®* Inspiration Fund effort to raise \$5 million for *NetsforLife®* by the end of this year.

We have accomplished a great deal thus far. As of December 2011, *NetsforLife®* had distributed more than 8.5 million nets, and trained almost 74,000 volunteers to help with community training, education, net installation, and monitoring and evaluation. More than 37 million people have benefited from *NetsforLife®*.

There is a great deal yet to do, given the estimated 216 million cases of malaria and 655,000 malaria-related deaths each year. *The NetsforLife®* Inspiration Fund will take us closer to our ultimate destination: a world where malaria

no longer diminishes or ends the lives of God's children.

Episcopalians can clearly see the impact of their participation in the *NetsforLife®* Inspiration Fund. It engages the gifts of individuals, congregations, dioceses, and the entire Church in concrete ways, through learning about

neighbors across the world, sharing financial resources, and participating in very particular corporal works of mercy.

The love of God can be seen in the most unexpected ways—a \$12 bed net protecting three children while they sleep, a volunteer explaining to families the importance of using nets, and American children raising funds to save the lives of their brothers and sisters ten thousand miles away. May we continue to share the love of God—and the concrete results of better health, nutrition, education, and opportunity—with all God's children around the globe, by working together to heal a hurting world.

To learn more about how to join Episcopal Relief & Development in the fight against malaria, and to support the *NetsforLife®* Inspiration Fund matching gift challenge before the May 25th deadline, please visit www.inspirationfund.org.



The Presiding Bishop during a visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo last year.

Photo courtesy of Matthew Davies for Episcopal News Service

NetsforLife® by the Numbers

# of nets distributed	8,534,913
# of people reached	25,079,403
# of volunteers trained	73,988
# of children under five saved	103,780
# of churches participating in <i>NetsforLife®</i> Inspiration Fund	2,713

Moving Toward Renewal and Hope in Haiti

It's been more than two years since Haiti was rocked by a devastating earthquake in January 2010. Though many organizations have packed up and gone home, Episcopal Relief & Development is more dedicated than ever to helping those who are still struggling to recover. Working in partnership with the Episcopal Church of Haiti and its relief and development arm, CEDDISEC, we're bringing hope and healing to people in need.

Amelicia Elizee is now living in a new home she owns in the urban center of Carrefour after 18 long months spent sleeping in a tent.

Mr. Pompee, age 72, gained the opportunity to earn some needed cash and help clear more than 50 cubic tons of rubble that still blocked a walkway in his town, as he worked on a 20-day project organized with the Episcopal Parish Ascension of Thor.

Mme. Jean Heclaïre owns her own home and is rebuilding her business as a traditional Haitian rural-urban trader in her hometown of Trouin after nearly two years of homelessness and destitution.



Men clearing debris as part of a cash-for-work project.

For all three people, it was the support of Episcopal Relief & Development and our Haitian partners that made their new lives possible. But there is so much more still to be done.

"While two years have already passed, the consequences of this terrible earthquake are still present," said Père Frantz (Fanfan) Cole, director of CEDDISEC. "Here in Haiti we are reminded each day

of its effects, as we step outside our front doors and continue to see the destruction and debris.

"Yet through the action and collaboration of both Haitians and our international brothers and sisters, we have helped many people to rise up and take steps forward toward healing and restored hope."

The work of Episcopal Relief & Development and CEDDISEC is



helping people take both spiritual and physical steps toward healing and reconstruction by providing housing and work opportunities for those still left without homes and jobs since the earthquake. Through CEDDISEC's Shelter Program, 1,240 individuals have left makeshift tents and camps to move into new homes, while another 1,000 people have been gainfully employed building the houses.

In addition, CEDDISEC has launched 137 cash-for-work community recovery projects, like the one that employed Mr. Pompee, providing short-term jobs for 4,768 individuals that help them meet their need for everyday food and goods, housing reconstruction supplies, and repayment of debts to local merchants. These projects have community-wide benefits as they improve sanitation, support reforestation and improved agriculture production, repair roads and ditches, strengthen hurricane preparedness, and help rehabilitate markets, clinics, and schools.

"We have helped many people to rise up and take steps forward toward healing and restored hope."

This year, Episcopal Relief & Development and CEDDISEC are moving at full speed to help those still suffering the most from the quake's devastation. Cash-for-work projects are being focused on youth and adults still living in urban tent camps, small business owners who have been unable to recover the capital needed to re-launch their trades, and parents who had to keep their children out of school for economic reasons.

A Dream Comes True

If you want to understand the power we all have within us to change the world we live in, you need look no further than Ken Adams.



Ken Adams is living proof it's never too late to make a difference.

Ten years ago, Ken—who just celebrated his 99th birthday—viewed a National Geographic special on the difficulties that many African women and girls face daily in finding water for their families. As he learned about the long distances they

have to travel, the dangers encountered on the road, and the health problems caused by drinking unsafe water, his heart went out to them. Since then Ken had been haunted by what he'd seen, and he realized, "If I don't act now, I may never get the chance!"

"If I don't act now, I may never get the chance!" -- Ken Adams

With a friend from his home parish, Holy Faith Episcopal Church in Inglewood, California, Ken dreamed up a plan. He would make a donation of \$50,000 to Episcopal Relief & Development, with a stipulation: In order to double its impact, the gift would match additional contributions raised for the project.

Ken and his friend met several times with Richard Hoff, an Episcopal Relief & Development Major Gift Officer. Together, they were able to connect Ken's goals with our local partner in southwestern Kenya, the Anglican Development Services of Nyanza, which is working on ambitious water projects in the area.

The community-based project Ken is supporting is installing 80 rainwater catchment tanks at schools, churches, and health centers. The tanks capture and



Girls enjoy clean water from this new water tank.

store rainwater through gutters on the roofs of the buildings, providing water for people during the dry season.

Residents learned to manage the tanks, including how to add chlorine solution to make the water safe for drinking. With access to clean water, families and communities are improving their hygiene and health.

Now mothers and daughters in these areas have been freed from long hours of dangerous and exhausting work of collecting water each day. For Ken this truly is a dream come true, and we at Episcopal Relief & Development couldn't be more grateful for his commitment to the people we serve.

Join Episcopal Relief & Development's Stewardship Circle

Stewardship Circle members commit to make a monthly gift of \$10, \$15, \$25 or more. This steady, reliable flow of support provides the resources we need to work in dozens of countries around the globe and also help communities right here in the U.S. prepare for and respond to disasters.

Please consider joining the Stewardship Circle with your own monthly commitment. People around the world need us, and by making a monthly gift to

support Episcopal Relief & Development you will help make a difference in the lives of the people who need us most. Together we will transform communities. Together we will heal a hurting world.

Become a Stewardship Circle member today by filling out your monthly pledge information on the back of the enclosed form or visiting us at www.er-d.org/monthly-giving/ to sign up.