



Mosquito Nets for DHL Staff

DHL is working with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) on the Roll Back Malaria Campaign, specifically on the logistics leading up to the delivery of 730,000 insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs) to Togo at the end of 2004. We were so impressed with these special nets that we bought 7,500 for our own staff.

DHL operates in over 220 countries and territories across the world, so this of course includes all of the countries that are most affected by malaria. We decided to buy 7,500 nets for our staff and, in September 2004, we sent three to each 'DHL family' in 35 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, after a successful pilot in Mombassa in May. We also provided 150 nets to an orphanage in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, to protect the children there.

It is estimated (World Health Organization statistics) that people in malaria-affected countries lose between 10 and 20 working days every year as a result of malaria. A malaria consultant from the IFRC stated that the re-occurrence rate for children under the age of 5 is an average of five episodes a year. Overall malaria kills a million people every year.

Our project involved not just sending the nets to the relevant country offices, but also leaflets explaining how to use them, with a presentation giving further information.

Feedback from staff has been extremely positive.

"The nets are very effective. Amazing how the nets work. I took my net to attend a camp meeting. Not a single mosquito to bit me." Gbesu Jonathan, Nigeria

"The nets are so easy to set up. I now enjoy a sound and uninterrupted sleep as there are no more disturbances from mosquitoes!" Afolabi Olufade, Abuja

"My room is now free of mosquitoes." Emidun Sunday, Nigeria

"Very good nets. I no longer see blood stains from mosquito bites on my bedsheets. The nets are thick and durable." Wale Akingbemisilu, Nigeria

