

Report of the realized Activities during the year 2007

0. General overview

The non benefit association « Action to Fight Against Malaria » (A.LU.MA-Burundi), created in 2001 and officially launched in Burundi by the ministerial law order n° 530/001 of January, 2nd, 2002 has continued on with its goal which consists of contributing to the improvement of living standards by the fight against malaria, so called ‘poor-disease’, and consequently remains the first cause of mortality in Sub-Saharan Africa. In Burundi all the same, Malaria is the first cause of morbidity and mortality. From official sources of the Public Health Ministry, more than 2 million clinical cases are reported every year; that represents almost a half of consultation cases in health care structures.

These interventions fit well with the two intervention axis recognized by the national protocol to fight against malaria, mainly **prevention** and cases **accurate care**.

During this year, and due to its customary and new partners, A.LU.MA-Burundi happened to fulfil some activities, which fall under those two intervention axis. And most of those activities have been able thanks to the really advantages of the anti-malaria centre.

In the prevention field, the association benefited a grant of BIF 21,253,500 from the Global Fund for Fighting against Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria, grant which allowed the organization of an awareness campaign for decision makers on the real need of launching a National Program for Fighting against malaria by radio/TV and sign advertisements. To reach a big number of Burundians, A.LU.MA-Burundi has organised an activity baptised “Price to the best journalist in the field of fighting against malaria”. Journalists, both from the written and spoken press participated to the competition, and the firsts in describing the extent of malaria in Burundi as well as its effects on the country’s economy got satisfactory prices.

The Global Fund support permitted also organization of training workshops for the anti-malaria personnel. Two types of training had been organized:

- training on the microscope use, with the idea of enabling all the centre attending personnel to be able of diagnosing malaria cases;
- training of care benefit receivers to teach them the best way of treating accurately cases, which supposes a perfect knowledge on prevention methods, the biological cycle of the malaria parasitic vector/cause, the national protocol on the treatment issue, etc ...

Organization of those training workshops benefited a technical support from LMTC Programme (Program to fight against transmissible and deficiency diseases). Funds from the French Embassy and UNOB have allowed the centre to get equipped of a meeting room and sufficient facilities (tables, chairs, high speaker sound materials ...) so as to have training workshops at the same place.

For the centre to be accurately functional, it needs supports of different kinds: moral, financial, material and technical supports. This means then that the centre has functioned due to devotion of organizations and physical persons who are sharing the same conviction with A.LU.MA-Burundi -that the centre can contribute to the improvement of leaving standards of law income people. Thus, the St François d'Assise anti-malaria Centre work is an expressive sign of an authentic acting international and multicultural solidarity.

By way of thanks, we would want to express our sincere gratitude to:

- the Papal Foundation and the Burundi papal nuncio, Bishop Paul R.Gallagher who have accepted on an exceptional way, in addition to some constructions, to in charge the personnel's wages, and that since the launch of the Centre in April 2004. In addition to this institutional support, the papal nuncio has given to the Centre a gift that has allowed the installation of a 10,000 cubic meter water tank, which allows the centre to have at its disposal a stock of water for various usages (cleanness and watering).
- The French Embassy in Burundi which has, by its financing, endowed the centre by a solid infrastructure that allows to guaranty to patients better welcoming conditions. In addition to infrastructures and facilities, the French Embassy has funded the drilling of a water well. This provides to the Centre autonomy in this expensive rare resource.
- The General Management of the Germany organisation "Medeor Action" which has supported A.LU.MA-Burundi since its launch by

- ways of various grants in medicaments and equipment facilities, and keeps its supporting on.
- All the persons who have granted A.LU.MA-Burundi their sponsorships through “medicaments” account opened at Medeor Action. We should name particularly Mrs Cécile Leurent and her family (france), the Antonia Horstmann and Sigi Ehlert, Hannelore and Walter Lappe families, Mr Stephan Bruns and Stefan Verhasselt from Germany. This account allows A.LU.MA-Burundi to make directly orders of non available products onto the local market to Medeor Action, like ‘suppository paracetamol’, very efficient for babies.
 - The Global Fund for Fighting against Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria for its various supports: laboratory equipments, medicaments (the artesunate / amoniaquine molecule), financial support for the fulfilment of some activities.
 - The Ministry of Public Health which associates as a partner A.LU.MA-Burundi in its initiatives of fighting against malaria.
 - The InterBank of Burundi which has supported its actions by a grant which has allowed the purchasing of an electrical pump which was needed for the functioning of the water well.
 - Mr Jiwani Shafiq, Director of Alsafa (import-export) who supplies the centre with all the needed paracetamol medicament 500mg tablets, since November 2005.
 - The Scheonstatt Fathers Community of Mont Sion Gikungu for their gift of powder milk, which have been served time to time to the centre visiting children with malnutrition signs.
 - The Keicher family and the St Nicolas Parish of Gundelsheim in Germany for various services goods sent by container end 2006. Selling of some of the articles allowed to accommodate/receive free of charge children under 5 from December 2006 till May 2007. ON the logistical level, the centre uses sent and unsold bicycles to cope with transportation issues for various needs. The numerous received soap boxes allowed to keep satisfactory clean the centre’s premises. For the table things, they serve during various organized workshops at the centre, avoiding as such recourse to costly hiring services.
 - Friends of Bonn and Moenchengladbach (Germany) for their moral support and their translation services.
 - The World Vision NGO which has given A/LU/MA-Burundi various materials needed for the functioning of the centre (gloves, syringes, etc...)

May all who have helped in a way or another A.LU.MA-Burundi to reach his objectives find here our profound gratitude. Every given aid serves to save a life when one knows that for accessing to the centre's services, an adult person has to give a contribution of BIF 400, unless for very poor people. Children under 5 contribute to the level of BIF 300.

A.LU.MA-Burundi exhorts its partners not to get tired, because the road is still long to go. Despite produced efforts, malaria remains one of the main factors of poverty faced by most of people attending the centre. Challenges remain, but there is no doubt that by putting together our efforts we shall come to reduce the ravages of malaria, and as such, free out energies for a sustainable development. Amongst the major challenges that face the centre, we have: the lack of a Doctor for technical management of its activities, lack of transportation means for different urgent services of transferring serious cases towards hospitals, and supplying, and the perpetuation of the personnel wages.

To decision makers, A.LU.MA-Burundi reiterates the wish of seeing one day the implementation of the National Programme for Fighting against Malaria, which would have as main mission of monitoring and coordinating all interventions aiming at malaria eradication in Burundi, around well studied/analysed strategies. This falls under political engagement taken by African Head of States during the Abuja declaration, on April 25th, 2000 of supporting programmes of fighting against malaria, so as to reach successfully the Millennium goals.

In case means would allow it, A.LU.MA-Burundi would like to receive free of charge under 5 children. It is too bad seeing an under five years' child dying of malaria just for not having been able to find BIF 300. Good will souls would let out their generosity by supporting this action in favour of children who constitute the first risky group. With only a million of BIF (around € 555), we can save 3,333 children under 5 years, as the gift from St Nicolas de Gundelsheim Parish in Germany had allowed us to go through that happy experience. We have realized that there are parents who can't afford having BIF 300 and decide to keep their sick children home; and when they decide to take bring them, they are then dying.

May the Almighty God bless all those charity/generosity and solidarity actions which contribute in saving human lives.