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Drive Against Malaria - Newsflash - September 2010

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## DAVID ROBERTSON REPORTS FROM NEW YORK

### UN summit on the Millennium Goals

David Robertson at the 65th General Assembly New York, where Nick Clegg pledged that Britain will lead the fight against malaria today as he announced a £500 million fund to tackle one of the world's biggest killers of children. Speaking at the UN summit in New York, the Deputy Prime Minister said he was increasing UK aid from its current £150 million in a bid to halve deaths in 10 African countries.

World leaders at the summit are striving to fulfil their commitments to the Millennium Development Goals. Since its creation in 2002, it has become the main funding tool for health programs, with approved funding of 19.3 billion US dollars for more than 572 programs in 144 countries. It provides a quarter of all international financing for AIDS globally, two thirds for tuberculosis and three quarters for malaria.



David Robertson in front of the United Nations Headquarters in New York

Still every 45 seconds a child dies of malaria. The picture is uneven. Much remains to be done. According Secretary-General Mr Ban more than 90 per cent of the bed nets needed to

fight malaria is financed. A good example is Rwanda: With nearly 60 per cent of children sleeping under insecticide-treated bed nets aimed at keeping out malaria-spreading mosquitoes, the country has registered the largest increase in the use of the nets in Africa, Mr. Ban said in his message, delivered by Jeffrey Sachs, his Senior Adviser on MDGs. This might be a good example. The reality in the African villages: Only 30 % of the population in malaria endemic areas received a Long Lasting Insecticide bed net.



Inside the United Nations Headquarters in New York

We won't achieve the goals set out in the MDG's if we don't take urgent action in the regions where bed nets are needed. Malaria is still one of the major health challenges undermining development in the poorest countries in the world. Many children who survive an episode of severe malaria may suffer from learning impairments or brain damage. Pregnant women and their unborn children are also particularly vulnerable to malaria, which is a major cause of prenatal mortality, low birth weight and maternal anaemia.



## **NETS SAVE LIVES**

Our special thanks to Land Rover Netherlands, ExxonMobil, Unlimited Communication Concepts, MalariaNoMore NL, Alle Beetjes, CNN, Vestergaard Frandsen, PermaNet, EuroSport, United Nations, National Geographic, WHO, RTL Nederland, RBM, DiscoveryChannel, NMCP, ACMS, GlocalGaz, MOH, Royal Geographical Society, WFP, Michelin, Land Rover UK, World Vision,

Ambassadors, Alliance HealthCare, GlaxoSmithKline, GGD Netherlands, Ernst & Young, Frontline Video, Launched, Tomorrow, Een Bureau Communicatiemiddelen, AccountView, Dietwee, 4Worx, Against Malaria Foundation, Lions Club Alkmaar, Goede Doelen TV and many others! We thank you, and all volunteers, for joining us in our fight against Malaria.

'Drive Against Malaria' is a campaign of DAM, Amsterdam



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