



Drive Against Malaria – Newsflash 2 – Februari 2015

NIEUWS UIT AFRIKA

DRIVE AGAINST MALARIA

Africa | The achievements

6.000.000
Mosquitonets

Drive Against Malaria has distributed 6.000.000 Mosquitonets in the remote corners of Africa.

Driven by Passion - Drive Against Malaria now in Namibia

Maria Davel-Wallis



When David Robertson and Julia Samuel walked into the *namib times* office in Swakopmund this week, I immediately noticed that David had only one arm and one leg – and the friendliest, liveliest, bright-blue eyes. They were dressed impeccably – you never would have guessed that, since 1999, they have been living in the most remote corners of Africa, under the most challenging circumstances, where clean water is often an unknown phenomenon, as is food as we know it, and have even on occasion being held hostage by rebels. The message David and Julia come to share, is clear and shocking: In the 21st century, Malaria is still the biggest killer on earth.

David Robertson has criss-crossed six continents over the past more than two decades, and on these expeditions it suddenly struck him that malaria and deforestation were recurring problems in many regions of the world.

So, in 1998 he went on the "World's Longest Journey" – his expedition called Drive Against Malaria (DAM). David Robertson was the first person to hand out mosquito nets in Africa, in his quest to make a difference to the grave suffering of millions, due to Malaria, he had encountered on his one-man expeditions since

With this campaign – on which he himself has already contracted malaria 7 times - he has moved mountains, and saved the lives of at least 4 million children under 5 years of age. Thanks to him, 25 April is commemorated as World Malaria Day by all member states of the World Health Organisation.

According to his website, the African leg of his campaign was launched by Dr. David Nabarro of The World Health Organisation's Roll Back Malaria. The launch was at the MIM conference Durban before WHO scientists, Ministers of

tries and the South African media. David Robertson then started driving through the southern African countries visiting hospitals, schools, health centres and holding press conference in each country.

The journey was both challenging and dangerous due to dreadful driving conditions, bandits, armed military, desert crossings and minefields, but this did not deter Robertson's mission with DAM.

In fact, it made him more determined than ever to fight malaria for the children of Africa. In November 1999, David Robertson

laria, the silent killer of one child under 5, every minute of each day, in Sub-Saharan Africa. "Each year there are up to 500 million clinical cases of malaria and 3 000 deaths per day of children under five years of age, yet malaria is preventable and curable. Drive Against Malaria's policy is to give away long lasting mosquito nets to children under five and pregnant women in the poorest communities of Africa." *Plasmodium* parasites are



David Robertson and Julia Samuel – a force of hope in the fight against Malaria

Namibia now, where they will start their Namibian project of testing, treating,

Malaria in Namibia is once again a forgotten disease. Drive Against Malaria (DAM) helps bring back attention about Malaria in Namibia with headlines in the *Namib Times*. Even though recent reports show that malaria mortality rates decreased in the centre- and the south of the country, the health sector may not be complacent. The communities in the far north are still hit hard by Malaria. Most Malaria-endemic areas in the north are still far from achieving universal coverage with life-saving malaria interventions. Many bottlenecks threaten to slow down the attention and the spread – further south - of this complicated enemy. According to WHO Namibia, Malaria is spreading further south from the border of Angola. The fear is severe complications due to a lack of resistance within the population. The presence of DAM helps put the deadly disease back on the political agenda, before the situation in the rest of the country is getting out of control.

Onze dank gaat in het bijzonder uit naar Land Rover Nederland, Land Rover BeLux, ExxonMobil, Novartis Pharma, Unlimited Communication, BAM International, Rig Repairs International, EEN BUREAU Communicatie, SwungHouse, CNN, Vestergaard Frandsen, PermaNet, CANON, Goed TV, EuroSport, United Nations, BAM Rail, Innerwheel, KLM, Redkiwi, Heineken, SONY, National Geographic, WHO, RTL Nederland, RBM, DiscoveryChannel, NMCP, ACMS, GlocalGaz, MOH, Pink Lotus, Royal Geographical Society, WFP, Hofstee Stichting, Michelin, Land Rover UK, World Vision, GlaxoSmithKline, MalariaNoMore NL, Roche USA, RonJeths, Alle Beetjes, International Ambassadors Africa, Alliance HealthCare, Tomorrow, GGD, Ernst & Young, Frontline Video, Launched, AccountView, Lions Club, Rotary Club, Tropicare, Simone Pastoors Tekst & Communicatie Advies en vele donateurs.

We thank you and all volunteers for joining us in our fight against malaria.



Donaties

Van Lanschot Bankiers 69.93.98.398
Ten name van Stichting Drive Against Malaria
Postbus 71850, 1008 EA Amsterdam, Nederland
IBAN: NL13FVLB 0699398398 BIC: FVLBNL22

Wilt u meer weten over wat onze DAM-teams doen en waarom onze hulp nodig is?

Kijk dan op de [Drive Against Malaria website](#).

WE CARE



[Aanmelden voor onze nieuwsbrief](#) | [Afmelden van onze nieuwsbrief](#)
[E-mail Drive Against Malaria](#)