

## **TREATED MOSQUITO NETS: AN EFFECTIVE MEANS OF PREVENTING MALARIA**

*While it is true that treated nets are a way of protecting an individual from malaria, according to the WHO it is also a way of protecting the whole community. If 80% of the population of a particular community uses mosquito nets, there will be a 50% reduction in the number of cases of the disease and deaths resulting from it. This is a significant reversal of the spread of this scourge.*

*In a survey of households in 2005, it was found that only 23% of children under five and 28% of pregnant women sleep under treated mosquito nets. This low level of use can be explained by the low level of income in the population.*

*Burkina Faso is planning a general campaign of free distribution of long-lasting mosquito nets in 2009 and 2010 for the entire population, but it does not yet have the funds to meet the entire need. I appeal to all the generous supporters of the Somerled Foundation to help save a life, or many lives, from the scourge of malaria by helping to provide treated mosquito nets by donating to this project of the Foundation.*

*Mrs. Priscilla Zongo  
Magistrate  
Wife of Prime Minister Tertius Zongo*



*L to R: Dr. Tiendrébéogo, Dr. Macdonald, Mrs. Zongo, Dr. Sanou*

## **INSECTICIDE-TREATED MOSQUITO NETS AND THE PREVENTION OF MALARIA IN BURKINA FASO**

### Geography of Burkina Faso

*Burkina Faso is situated in the heart of West Africa. A landlocked country in the sahelian zone, it spreads over 106,000 square miles and is bordered by*

- Côte-d'Ivoire on the southwest,
- Ghana and Togo on the south
- Benin on the southeast
- Mali on the northwest and north
- Niger on the east and northeast.

### Demographics

*The population of Burkina Faso is about 13 million people, according to the latest census data available. Approximately 42% of the population lives under the poverty level on less than one dollar per day.*

### What is malaria?

*Malaria is a deadly parasitical disease which is transmitted by insect bites. Each year it kills close to 2.7 million people in the world with 80% of the cases being reported in sub-saharan Africa. Most cases occur in children under five years old and in pregnant women.*

### The Scourge of Malaria in Burkina Faso

*In Burkina Faso, malaria is a serious and widespread public health problem. It is in fact the primary cause of visits to health clinics, hospitalization, and deaths in health centers. In 2006, according to the National Health Information System:*

- One third of all patients at health clinics suffer from malaria
- Half of all the beds in health clinics are occupied by a patient suffering from malaria
- Half of all deaths in health clinics are the result of malaria

*Children under the age of five are the most seriously affected. In 2006 malaria was the cause of death for more than 60% of the children under five who died. Malaria is also a threat to pregnant women and their fetus: it can cause death in utero or a low birth weight in the newborn.*

*In addition to the fact that malaria threatens people's lives, it is also a scourge which contributes to poverty in that it reduces productivity through illness and weakness, and thus reduces family income.*

*There is still no medicine that can provide absolute protection against malaria. Thus it is important above all to reduce the risk of contracting the disease by taking all steps to avoid mosquito bites.*