

NETwork Against Malaria

Chapter Start-Up Guide



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Introduction

Thank you for your commitment to NETwork Against Malaria. Together, we can fight against malaria in Uganda, Africa.

NETwork Against Malaria is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fighting the spread of malaria through the purchase and distribution of bed nets.

Volunteers make jewelry out of paper African beads. When a piece of jewelry is sold, the money goes to purchasing a long-lasting, insecticide-treated bed net. One ten-dollar purchase funds one bed net and saves one life. However, since three siblings can sleep under one bed net, ten dollars can potentially save three lives.



Meet some of the children who sleep under bed nets.

You can help. Bed nets save lives.

Making one piece of jewelry has a big impact.

Malaria

Malaria is transmitted through the bites of mosquitos that carry single-celled, wormlike parasites called *Plasmodia* that live in their salivary glands. When people are infected with malaria, they experience high fevers, shivering, cold sweats, freezing, and vomiting. The parasite destroys so many oxygen-carrying red blood cells that their lungs and brain shut down. Their blood becomes too acidic, brain cells die, and they fall into a coma. Ultimately, the disease can end in death.

Malaria in the World

Malaria is a global problem:

- Fifty percent of the world's population is at risk.
- Half a billion people are infected with the disease every year.
- One to three million of those infected die every year.
- It is the number one cause of death in children under the age of five.



Africa is plagued by malaria more than any other continent. One major concern is that the warm African climate allows mosquitos carrying the most deadly strain of the disease, *Plasmodium falciparum*, to transmit the disease year-round. Poverty is another contributing factor: Malaria takes the worst toll on those who do not have the resources to prevent or treat it, especially the rural poor in Africa.

Malaria is the number one cause of death in children under the age of five.

Malaria in Uganda

Malaria is an enormous problem in Uganda:

- It is the number one cause of sickness and death.
- It kills 350 Ugandan children every day and 70,000—110,000 people in Uganda every year.
- It is the main cause of infant mortality and causes underweight or premature births.
- It can cause stunted growth, childhood anemia, and mental disability.

The disease is also the number one cause of poverty in Uganda. Poor Ugandans can spend up to twenty-five percent of their income on malaria prevention and treatment.

Bed Nets

Mosquitos that transmit malaria come out at night between the hours of 1:00 a.m.—4:00 a.m. If Ugandans sleep under a bed net, they are protected from mosquito bites.



The blue packages contain bed nets.

Statistics

In areas where bed nets are heavily used, malaria transmission is reduced by 95%.

Health Effects

The use of bed nets reduces cases of anemia and mental disability.

Education

NETwork distributes bed nets through schools, which gives education a tangible worth. Ugandan students no longer miss school days due to malaria and can therefore further their education.

Poverty

Professor Jeffrey Sachs, author of *End Poverty*, claimed that ending malaria is the most important step in ending poverty. For Ugandans, bed nets are the most efficient way to end malaria and combat poverty.

After using bed nets, parents no longer need to miss work because they or their children have malaria. They also do not need to spend more than one-third of their annual income on malaria prevention and treatment.

NETwork Against Malaria



NETwork Against Malaria distributes bed nets to students in Uganda, Africa. Our current goal is to cover the 58 schools with over 30,000 students that are run by one of our volunteers, Fr. Mujule.

There are two main differences between NETwork Against Malaria and other anti-malaria organizations: education and leadership. Through education, NETwork ensures that Ugandans use the nets properly. The organization is also Ugandan-led in Uganda and American-led in

America. Working together, we can lift Ugandans out of poverty and end malaria.

Distribution Process

NETwork focuses on education. We ensure students learn and understand the importance of bed nets and how to use them properly. Without education, Ugandans may not understand the significance of the bed nets and may use as dress material or other ways.

Each distribution presentation is spoken in English and in the local language. After learning about bed nets, students bring the nets home to their families.

Fr. Mujule,
NETwork's contact
in Uganda.

Distribution Region

Fr. Mujule's schools are located in the northern part of the southern region of Uganda.



Uganda is located in East Africa.

It is home to internally-displaced persons, refugees, and some of the poorest people in the world. Many cannot afford treatment if they contract malaria. Prevention is the most effective method to promote good health, financial stability for families, and increased school attendance.

Get Involved

There are several ways to get involved in NETwork Against Malaria. Together, we can promote awareness of malaria and empower individuals to impact their global community.

By starting a chapter of NETwork Against Malaria, you will save lives and help fight poverty. However, there are other ways to promote the cause.

Art Contest

Every spring, NETwork's Annual Art Contest takes place. Students from kindergarten to eighth grade can learn about malaria and the importance of bed nets.



This drawing won first place in the 6th–8th grade division of the art contest in 2011.

Inviting Speakers

NETwork volunteers can come speak to groups about the organization's impact on the global community and inspire them to take action. The message is particularly good for student groups because NETwork was founded by five sisters between the ages of twelve and twenty-one.

Enrichment Lesson Plans

Through these lesson plans, students can learn about Ugandan martyrs, write Ugandan fables based on Ugandan proverbs, solve malaria-based word problems, and learn about Ugandan wildlife and mosquitos. They are fun, simple ways to interact with younger students and get them involved in the fight against malaria.

Fundraising

In addition to making and selling jewelry, there are other ways to raise money for NETwork Against Malaria. Some ideas include

- Organizing a bake sale
- Planning a benefit concert
- Hosting a competitive penny drive or donation collection
- Designing promotional materials
- Writing for the newsletter
- Collecting pledges for a sports event

Starting a Chapter

Several jewelry-making chapters exist within schools, youth groups, or community organizations all over the country, including California, Missouri, Florida, and Illinois. Check the NETwork Against Malaria website to see if there is already a group in your area. If not, start your own. Contact NETwork Against Malaria and follow these steps to get started:

1. Start-Up Kit

Since you are starting a new chapter, NETwork will provide you with a start-up kit. This kit includes samples of jewelry crimps, wire, clasps, rings, and Ugandan beads as well as ten pieces of finished jewelry.

2. Recruit Members

Promote your chapter through social media, publicity, and word-of-mouth. Tell your friends, and encourage your peers to join.

3. Sell Jewelry

To gather funds, sell the ten pieces of jewelry provided in the start-up kit. Necklaces are ten dollars and bracelets are five dollars.

4. Invest Funds

Use the money from selling the start-up jewelry to purchase more materials. Jewelry supplies can be purchased in craft stores. Ugandan beads can be ordered through Bead for Life at beadforlife.org.

In addition to buying supplies, consider collecting and reusing broken jewelry.

5. Get Started!

Continue making and selling jewelry. Use profits to purchase more materials, and send the leftover funds to NETwork.

Involve NETwork

NETwork can work with your chapter by promoting events and providing additional materials such as t-shirts, flyers, and more jewelry supplies.

If your chapter grows, you can also have NETwork list your chapter on the website. This is especially important if your group is affiliated with a university or campus.

Jewelry

NETwork is funded by profits from making jewelry.

Supplies

To make jewelry, you will need the following supplies:

- Handmade paper beads from Uganda
- Jewelry crimps
- Metal jewelry wire (.38 mm)
- Clasps and rings
- Wire cutters
- Needle nose pliers or a crimping tool
- Seed beads and other beads

These materials can be purchased at craft stores and hobby shops. Some tools, like wire cutters and pliers, are easy to find in tool boxes or hardware stores.

Ugandan beads are best purchased from Bead for Life (beadforlife.org). These beads are handmade out of recycled paper by Ugandan women. Bead for Life provides these women with employment and craft skills, stimulating the economy through the beads.



The colorful paper beads from Bead for Life are made by Ugandan women.

Sizes

The jewelry-making process is similar for both bracelets and necklaces, but their lengths vary. Here is a general guide for cutting wire for bracelets and necklaces:

- Bracelets: 7 1/2—9 1/2 inches
- Small necklace: 15—16 inches
- Medium necklace: 18—19 inches
- Long necklace: 20—21 inches
- Extra-long necklace: 22—24 inches

Making Jewelry

Making jewelry is easy, and anyone can do it. There are three major steps: securing the crimp, adding the beads, and finishing the bracelet or necklace. Follow these steps to create both necklaces and bracelets.

Securing the Crimp

1. Cut a piece of wire to the appropriate length.
2. Place a crimp on the wire, followed by a clasp.
3. Fit the clasp next to the crimp, keeping it between the crimp and the tip of the wire.
4. Take the tip of the wire and pull it over the clasp and through the crimp.
5. With pliers, squeeze the crimp tightly so that it pinches the wire and holds the clasp in place.

Adding the Beads

1. Create a pattern of beads to string on the wire. Include at least one or two Ugandan beads in your pattern. Since the paper beads are more expensive, you may want to use them sparingly.
2. String the beads over the wire.
3. Continue stringing beads until the pattern is complete.
4. Leave at least $\frac{3}{4}$ –1 inch of wire free at the end.

Finishing

1. Place a crimp at the end of the wire.
2. Pull the crimp down until it is up against the last bead strung on the wire.
3. Place the end of the clasp on the wire.
4. Hold the crimp in place, take the tip of the wire, and pull it over the clasp and through the crimp.
5. Pinch the crimp tightly with pliers.
6. Tuck the end of the wire into the last bead.
7. Cut off any extra wire.

Selling Jewelry

There are many places to sell jewelry, including churches, community events, craft stores, and conferences. If your chapter is affiliated with a university or campus, consider selling jewelry in common areas or at the meetings of clubs and organizations. The possibilities are endless.

Thank You



Your
contribution
makes a
difference.

Contact Us

Please contact NETwork Against Malaria to leave comments, ask questions, or start your own chapter.

E-mail

NETworkAgainstMalaria@gmail.com

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/networkagainstmalaria/>

Website

<http://www.networkagainstmalaria.org>

Google

<http://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/network-against-malaria-chapters>

Pinterest

<http://pinterest.com/networkmalaria/>