

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

As of December 1, 2015, 90% of all non-boarding schools with early childhood development (ECD) programs in the Maara Sub-County area of Kenya have been given a mosquito net through HopeCore's distribution program!

Village HopeCore International (HopeCore) is pleased to announce that in 2015 up to 4,781 primary school students were equipped with long-lasting insecticide treated nets. This was across 516 villages on the slopes of Mt. Kenya. By giving nets to only the ECD class in each school, HopeCore is able to reach more schools and villages as compared to giving nets to the whole school. The ECD class is a more vulnerable age, making the impact greater.

Furthermore, through their recently launched maternal and child health clinics, 1,916 mothers of children under 5 years old were educated on malaria prevention and an additional 340 nets were distributed to these mothers.

Malaria is a mosquito-borne illness affecting half of the world's population. People living in the poorest countries are most susceptible to malaria. Per 10 Facts on Malaria, 2014: In 2012, 90% of all malaria deaths occurred in Africa and 460,000 African children died before their fifth birthday.

Many studies show that having a higher number of treated mosquito nets in a village provides greater protection for everyone in the village, including those homes who do not have mosquito nets. This program has given 516 villages greater protection from malaria.

Other research shows that out of every 1,000 children who could be covered by mosquito nets, 5.5 lives are saved. Based on this, HopeCore's malaria program saved 28 lives in the Maara Sub-County in 2015 and reduced morbidity among countless others.

HopeCore is a small, innovative 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, registered as a non-governmental organization (NGO) in both Kenya and the United States. HopeCore has been an active NGO for over 15 years, a remarkable achievement for non-profits in Africa. The organization has grown significantly and continues to identify gaps in programming.

The mosquito net program was supported by a generous donor from Germany, GEBENDE HÄNDE (Giving Hands Foundation). Gabende Hande has been supporting HopeCore's malaria eradication efforts since 2009.

To learn more about this malaria eradication program or other HopeCore programs, email Anne Gildea (anne.gildea@villagehopecorekenya.or.ke) for more information.