

Update on the ELCA Malaria Campaign

The commitment of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to malaria work continues. The ELCA, encouraged by the vote of the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, has developed a strategy to join the global movement to contain deaths from malaria in Africa by 2015. Some changes are being made to the structure of this project. The ELCA's commitments to global health and to our companions in Africa remain firm.

In recent months, mission support and other funding to the ELCA has declined significantly. Many synods and congregations are also struggling to deal with hard financial realities. In light of this difficult economic situation, ELCA leadership has determined that a \$30 million campaign around malaria, which was to be tested in the current biennium, is not feasible at this time. Therefore, the ELCA churchwide organization withdrew its grant proposal to the United Nations Foundation, ending the ELCA's involvement in the project called the Lutheran Malaria Initiative.

The ELCA has made commitments to and is continuing to engage with companion churches as they develop and implement strategies for preventing and treating malaria in Africa. The new ELCA effort will carry forward much of the work that the ELCA had been doing under the rubric of the Lutheran Malaria Initiative. The ELCA Malaria Campaign, as it will now be known, will direct all of its funds to our companion churches in Africa. (The United Nations Foundation-related campaign that had been under consideration required that 30 percent of the funds raised go to the Global Fund, 20 percent to be used for capacity building to encourage companion churches to participate in Global Fund country efforts, and 50 percent to support companions' malaria programming.)

The ELCA Malaria Campaign has been "right-sized" for the current realities of the ELCA; the proposed goal of \$15 million will be a challenge in the current economic environment, but is both doable and ambitious enough to meet the commitments that we have made to our companion churches in Africa. The ELCA Malaria Campaign will continue to work closely with ELCA World Hunger, and to underscore the global health connections between malaria containment and ministry with those living with HIV and AIDS.

The ELCA Malaria Campaign is not intended to compete with essential ELCA World Hunger work, but rather to build further capacity. It reaches out to new donors and also provides an exciting opportunity for current donors to deepen their commitment above and beyond normal ELCA World Hunger giving.

Through the ELCA Malaria Campaign our commitment to health and hope for our sisters and brothers in Africa is strong, focused and prioritized.

Which aspects of the ELCA's malaria efforts will NOT change?

- ❖ The ELCA will continue a campaign to raise awareness and funds for malaria prevention and treatment through its companions in Africa.
- ❖ The campaign will continue to encourage prayer, advocacy, education and fund-raising for malaria containment.
- ❖ 2010 pilot synods and 2011 pilot synods will:
 - continue testing materials and strategies before our malaria work is brought to the whole ELCA at the 2011 Churchwide Assembly.
 - continue with their current fund-raising and awareness-raising goals.
 - make use of campaign structures and networking plans developed by ELCA churchwide staff.
- ❖ The ELCA commitment, including staff and dedicated resources, to alleviating the suffering caused by malaria in Africa is represented in the new ELCA Malaria Campaign.

How will our partnerships with Lutheran World Relief, the United Nations Foundation, the Global Fund and Nothing But Nets change?

Lutheran World Relief

The ELCA plans to work cooperatively with Lutheran World Relief as well as other ecumenically-based malaria programs to contain malaria in Tanzania and other places where common work can advance the cause. We are also exploring with Lutheran World Relief a shared malaria fund-raising approach to colleges and universities of the ELCA.

United Nations Foundation

The ELCA has withdrawn its grant proposal to the United Nations Foundation and in so doing has discontinued its partnership with the organization. Had it been awarded, the United Nations Foundation grant would have provided support for our malaria fund-raising efforts.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Companion churches and ELCA Global Mission will continue to work with the Global Fund as these churches grow in their capacity to fight HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in partnership with their governments and others in civil society. No direct financial assistance will be made to the Global Fund through the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

Nothing But Nets

The ELCA anticipates a continued relationship with Nothing But Nets.

Which companions in Africa will be included in the ELCA Malaria Campaign?

Current plans for the ELCA Malaria Campaign provide for ELCA engagement with companion churches in Angola, the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe over the life of the campaign. The first focus of intensive malaria engagement was with churches within the Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa. Following action by the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, planning for malaria partnerships has been, and continues to be, expanded to other companion churches in West and East Africa.

October 4, 2010