

# HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives, £5 at a time

## Mali - Malaria Prevention Initiative

Mali is one of the poorest countries in the world, ranking 173<sup>rd</sup> out of 177 countries listed on the United Nations Human Development Report. Bourama Niagate, a Malian colleague and friend of High Five Club patron, Will Travers of the Born Free Foundation, has come to us with an important initiative to be implemented through his organisation, AMEPANE.

Bourama is the President of the Association Malienne pour l'Etude la Protection, l'Aménagement de la Nature et de l'Environnement (AMEPANE) and the Director of the National Park and Reserve of the Biosphere of the Boucle du Baoulé, the largest protected area in Mali. AMEPANE undertakes activities focused on the protection of the environment and on poverty alleviation in the Bafing area, the poorest area in Mali.



Bourama has asked High Five Club members to help improve health and alleviate poverty in this region by providing modest support in the form of treated mosquito nets to help prevent malaria and thereby keep children in school. We have hence together donated £350 to AMEPANE to buy 175 treated mosquito nets.

The protected Bafing Fauna Reserve is located about 20 km away from the border with Guinea and includes thousands of people living in 28 villages. The rural nature of the region precludes any industrial activities and severely limits income generation.

The area lacks health infrastructures and health care staff. In Saraya, for instance, for a population of 24,000 inhabitants, there are only 3 health posts (Saraya, Nafadji and Missirah) and four health huts (Brabiry, Kondokhou, Baïtilaye and Moussala). Teams moving from one community to the next usually perform medical consultations and vaccinations, but provision of health services is complicated by the isolation of the villages and a lack of transport.

Many children die between the ages of 1 month old and 1 year old because they are exposed to diseases linked to their environment such as malaria, diarrhoea, whooping cough, rheumatism, dysentery, diphtheria and meningitis.

The President's Malaria Initiative reports that 100% of the Malian population is at risk of malaria with malaria being **“one of the principle causes of death and suffering in Mali. It is responsible for more than 30 percent of all outpatient visits and 30 percent of hospital deaths.”** Hundreds of thousands of cases of malaria are reported each year and roughly one in five children under five years old contract the disease.

Most children in the Bafing area receive no formal education. Those children who are in school walk between 7 and 12 km each day to reach their closest school. Children go through the entire school day without eating, and those who can bring food often have contaminated meals that leave them ill. Those that contract malaria, and are in recovery, do not have the energy to walk this huge distance to school.

It is quite simple, really: no child should miss school; no child should succumb to preventable diseases; no child should be forgotten.

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Will and his colleagues at Born Free have known Bourama for more than a decade and couldn't be more confident in his ability to help the people of Mali — the children of Mali — to ensure they are safe from malaria and educated. Only then do they have a chance to work their way out of poverty.

I hope that you, like us, are proud to be able to assist Bourama in his endeavours to help children in Mali. At £2 a shot, less than the price of a Starbucks coffee, we can help a child to stay malaria free and in school - that's 175 children in total we've assisted for our £350 contribution.

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