

Uganda: Young Family Gains Security

Helping to protect thousands of lives
through net distributions



Sarah and Byron's bubbly eight month old son sits happily on his father's knee, revelling in his dad's attention. Christened 'Goodluck' by his parents because of their joy at his safe arrival, the name of this healthy, chubby child embodies this couple's outlook on life.

Having already miscarried one child due to a severe bout of malaria, Sarah was terrified that the same thing would happen while pregnant with Goodluck.

"When my first baby died, I was devastated," she explains. "I had carried him for six months and I already loved him. We buried the baby and I cried and cried."

On finding herself pregnant again, Sarah was very cautious. Yet despite her regular check ups, without the protection of an insecticide treated mosquito net, she developed a malaria related high fever during the final stages of pregnancy. "I was terrified.

*Sarah, 21, Byron 31, Goodluck, 8 months.
Beneficiaries of mosquito nets distributed by
Malaria Consortium*

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This time, I went straight to the hospital and they gave me special medication until I delivered a healthy baby.”

“I was so excited when we received our net” says Sarah. “I remember the day well, since then we’ve not had malaria at all.”

A healthy baby isn’t the only good news story for this young family. On average, families spend 10 percent of their annual income on malaria and it costs Africa \$12 billion a year.

Goodluck sleeps under a net distributed by Malaria Consortium as part of a Comic Relief funded Pioneer project which aims to reduce malaria related death by rapidly increasing coverage of life saving interventions. The project ensures that the best tools are accessible to the people who need them the most.

“The net means so much to us, not only is our child healthy, but we are also free to work; we are not spending all our money on malaria treatment and medication,” explains Byron.

“Whenever I’m working, I’m doing it for my son and for my wife. He is our future.”



Photos: Comic Relief/Vicky Dawes

It only takes £5
to help protect
children
like Goodluck

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