

Malaria Safe CASE STUDY



BG Tanzania

January 2014

BG Group is a world leader in natural gas, with a strategy focused on connecting competitively priced resources to specific, high-value markets. Active in more than 20 countries on five continents, BG Group has a broad portfolio of business interests focused on exploration and production of liquefied natural gas. It combines a deep understanding of gas markets with a proven track record in finding and commercializing reserves.



COMPANY PROFILE

Company name: BG Tanzania

Headquarters: Da res Salaam

Market: Tanzania

Employees: 100 staff, 350 contracted.

Industry: Oil and Gas



In 2013, BG Tanzania decided to implement the Malaria Safe Program developed by the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs, Voices for a Malaria-Free Future Project under the United Against Malaria (UAM) campaign. A workplace malaria control strategy, the Malaria Safe Program grew out of the UAM campaign which brought together partners from many sectors to build political and popular will to fight malaria. Malaria Safe was developed as a means to invite the private sector to join the fight against malaria. The four pillars of the Malaria Safe Program include education, protection, visibility and advocacy. Companies are encouraged to educate and protect employees, their families, and the communities where companies operate, provide visibility for the fight against malaria and the UAM partnership, and advocate with other companies and government counterparts to increase investments made to control and subsequently eliminate malaria.

“We wanted to partner up with experts in order to do everything that we could do to eradicate malaria in the workplace,” said Dr. John Wijnberg, Medical Advisor for BG Tanzania.

| Malaria Safe Interventions: | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Education: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness workshop on Malaria conducted with over 350 employees at their headquarters and satellite offices. Demonstration of self-testing kits and how to prevent malaria (malaria prophylaxis, LLINs, long sleeves and repellants, etc.) Regular internal communication and malaria related communication material disseminated to employees |
| Protection: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distributed 500 long lasting insecticide treated nets to staff; 150 in their Dar es Salaam offices, and 350 in their Mtwara office Indoor Residual Spraying offered to employees Provide stand by treatment and self testing kits for when employees travel to remote areas (includes an RDT, thermometer, Paracetamol, insect repellent, a doctor’s note and standby malaria treatment) |
| Visibility: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Press invited to malaria related activities on World Malaria Day |
| Advocacy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentations to different Oil and Gas companies showing the benefits of being Malaria Safe Met with the Prime Minister’s office to talk about partnering to grow the number of Malaria Safe companies. |



With technical assistance from the Voices team, a general malaria awareness workshop was held in Dar es Salaam for the BG Tanzania staff, where malaria was discussed in detail to raise awareness of the magnitude of the disease and the impact it can have on individuals. “A lot of people came to me afterwards claiming that they did not know just how fatal malaria was,” Dr. Wijnberg mentioned.

The BG group has a policy that requires staff to meet with the Medical Advisor before any travel. “I take this opportunity to refresh staff on what we learned during the awareness workshop. Posters with malaria messages are visible in the office and I make sure to keep malaria awareness as a topic during staff meetings,” Dr. Wijnberg explained. Malaria brochures can be found upon entering the BG office and a supply is always available for newcomers.

BG Tanzania works in southern Tanzania in the region of Mtwara, where the port supports offshore exploration activities. BG Tanzania has a team of about 350 people based in Mtwara which has a high prevalence of malaria, considerably higher than Dar es Salaam. Staff who travel outside of Tanzania or to remote parts of Tanzania where they might incur delays in accessing medical care are provided with Malaria Kits.

Dr. Wijnberg explained that, “A number of staff travel in and out of the country and to areas that probably have never witnessed cases of the disease. In the Malaria Kit, you can find a “Dear Doctor Card” that is presented to the Doctor of the country they are visiting, if malaria symptoms arise.” The card states the following:

“Dear Doctor, I live in a malaria endemic area in Tanzania, where falciparum malaria is a serious health hazard. Malaria presents in a number of ways, most commonly as flu like illness. Successful outcome is critically dependant on rapid diagnosis and prompt appropriate treatment. Please treat as an emergency and refer to an appropriate medical center for supportive in-patient care”

“Being Malaria Safe has helped raise awareness immensely within the company. Senior management understands the magnitude of the disease and why they should protect their staff from it, and staff, too, are more aware and report all cases of malaria to me, seeking advice and treatment and preventive measures, we focus considerably on education and protection, because as the old adage goes – an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure”, Dr. Wijnberg added.

BG Tanzania will start using the Malaria Safe Dashboard in 2014 to capture and report effects of their malaria investment on malaria cases and related expenses for BG Tanzania.

BG Tanzania continues to be an extremely valuable Malaria Safe partner as they have increased their advocacy activities bringing on other companies to become Malaria Safe. “I believe Malaria Safe is a sustainable additional tool with which to fight malaria in Tanzania. The business community all playing their part will not only bring benefit to their business performance but also benefit the general community on a wider level,” said Dr. Wijnberg.

Contacts:

BG Tanzania
Dr John Paul Wijnberg
Medical Advisor BG East Africa
Tel. + 255 (0) 767150896
Tel. + 255 (0) 22221 8354
Email John.Wijnberg@bg-group.com

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
Center for Communication Programs
Anna McCartney-Melstad, Senior Program Officer
Email: amccartn@jhsph.edu



www.malariasafe.org