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For Immediate Release

Clarke's Donated Mosquito Nets Help Achieve Medical Milestone in Nigeria
Chicago-area Company Works to Eradicate Mosquito-Borne Disease

CHICAGO (Aug. 12, 2013) – [Clarke](#), a Chicago mosquito control company, along with [The Carter Center](#) and several other organizations, recently hailed the end of a debilitating mosquito-borne disease in two states in Nigeria, thanks to a partnership among the Nigeria Federal Ministry of Health, The Carter Center, Clarke and other NGOs and corporations. Plateau and Nasarawa are the first Nigerian states to stop the transmission of lymphatic filariasis (LF), also commonly known as elephantiasis.

This is a noteworthy medical achievement since Nigeria is one of the most endemic countries in the world for LF, with 22 million people infected and an additional 100 million at risk. Mosquitoes transmit LF, which can cause excessive swelling of a person's limbs and genitals. The disease can result in tremendous suffering and social stigma, drastically impacting an individual's quality of life and ability to work and care for his or her family.

The Nigeria Federal Ministry of Health and The Carter Center led an integrated team strategy to fight this disease through public education, preventive measures and drug treatment. In Nasarawa and Plateau states, the national program, in collaboration with its partner organizations, distributed long-lasting insecticidal bed nets, donated by Clarke through its [Clarke Cares Foundation](#), as part of its "Net for Net Project."

"Clarke's Net for Net Project in Nigeria continues to serve as a shining example of the good that can be accomplished when a company truly cares," said former U.S. President and Carter Center Founder Jimmy Carter. "Rosallynn and I are grateful for the partnership of Clarke and the rest of the team and look forward to working with you toward the goal of 100 percent coverage of households in Nigeria."

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Clarke Mosquito Nets // Add One

Mass treatment with the drugs ivermectin, donated by Merck, and albendazole, donated by GlaxoSmithKline, was conducted alongside health education. However, experience in the area found that medicine alone had not been sufficient to stop this disease. Mosquito bed nets were also needed to stop the transmission of LF. Since 2009, the Clarke Cares Foundation has donated nearly 100,000 DuraNet™ long-lasting insecticidal mosquito bed nets to The Carter Center. These nets have been specifically targeted for Plateau and Nasarawa as part of this LF elimination program and also for malaria control.

“Together with our supporters and other members of The Carter Center’s team, we are proud to have helped make healthier futures for more than 240,000 people,” said J. Lyell Clarke, III, president and CEO of Clarke. “Through the Clarke Cares Foundation, we aim to continue to provide DuraNets to communities in Nigeria that are working hard to fight LF and malaria, another mosquito-borne illness.”

LF is a parasitic infection that, in Africa, is usually spread by the same mosquitoes that transmit malaria. In addition to swelling of limbs (lymphoedema and elephantiasis) and genital organs (scrotal hydrocele), the disease causes painful recurrent attacks of acute fever and inflamed lymph vessels (adenolymphangitis).

Considered a neglected tropical disease, LF almost exclusively affects the world’s poorest people. Approximately one-fifth of the world’s population (1.3 billion people) is at risk of contracting LF and approximately 120 million people in 83 countries are currently infected. Worldwide, Nigeria’s population is the third most at risk of contracting the disease, behind only India and Indonesia. Children and pregnant women are most susceptible.

In recent weeks, the Nigeria Federal Ministry of Health announced that disease levels were low enough in the two adjacent central Nigerian states to ensure LF could no longer be transmitted. That allowed the Nigerian government and its partners to stop widespread distribution of drug treatments.

This significant milestone has officials with The Carter Center optimistic that if LF can be stopped in two of the worst-affected states in Nigeria, one of the world’s most-affected countries, there are positive implications for global elimination of LF using these tools.

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Clarke Mosquito Nets // Add Two

Success in Nasarawa and Plateau means the program can now expand into other parts of Nigeria, where The Carter Center will support an integrated drug treatment approach to combat LF simultaneously with their existing programs to fight river blindness, malaria, trachoma and schistosomiasis.

The Nigerian Federal Ministry of Health has started post-treatment surveillance in both states. After a three-year surveillance period, the program will conduct a follow-up transmission assessment survey to prove the disease is gone. River blindness (onchocerciasis) is co-endemic with LF in several parts of Nigeria. As such, The Carter Center is still providing ivermectin drug treatment for river blindness in 12 of the 30 local government areas in Nasarawa and Plateau, with the goal of eliminating the disease in these states by 2020.

LF is one of only seven diseases that The Carter Center's International Task Force for Disease Eradication has named as potentially eradicable. A pioneer in eradication and elimination of neglected diseases, The Carter Center spearheads the international campaign to eradicate Guinea worm disease, leads the campaign to eliminate river blindness in the Americas and four African countries, and advocates ridding the island of Hispaniola of malaria and LF. In 2009, The Carter Center expanded its work in Ethiopia to take on LF in 20 districts in support of that country's goal of eliminating LF by 2020.

Clarke Cares Foundation aims to save lives and reduce suffering from mosquito-borne illnesses for those with critical needs around the world. For more information, including ways you can help, please visit www.clarkecares.org.

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DuraNet is a registered trademark of Shobikaa Impex Private Limited

Editors, please note: A companion video, "Nigeria Halts Lymphatic Filariasis in Two States" is available on The Carter Center website at:

<http://www.cartercenter.org/news/multimedia/HealthPrograms/NigeriaHaltsLymphaticFiliariasisinTwoStates.html>

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Clarke Mosquito Nets // Add Three

Also note: The following photos may be used to illustrate the Clarke Cares Foundation Net for net project in Nigeria. Additional high-resolution photography to accompany editorial is available through the media contact listed on this release. Please credit all images as courtesy of Clarke Cares Foundation.



About Clarke Cares Foundation

The Clarke Cares Foundation aims to save lives and reduce suffering from mosquito-borne illnesses for those with critical needs around the world. From struggling communities to disaster zones, please join us in this effort to help those who need it most. For more information, please visit www.clarkecares.org.

About Clarke

Clarke is a global environmental products and services company. A family-owned business based in Roselle, Ill., our mission is to make communities more livable, safe and comfortable for families around the world. We do this by pioneering, developing and delivering environmentally responsible mosquito control and aquatic services to help prevent disease, control nuisances and create healthy waterways. For more information, please visit www.clarke.com and find us on Facebook at <http://on.fb.me/MPdAMy>.

About The Carter Center

"Waging Peace. Fighting Disease. Building Hope." A not-for-profit, nongovernmental organization, The Carter Center has helped to improve life for people in more than 70 countries by resolving conflicts; advancing democracy, human rights, and economic opportunity; preventing diseases; and improving mental health care. The Center was founded in 1982 by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, in partnership with Emory University, to advance peace and health worldwide. Please visit www.cartercenter.org to learn more about The Carter Center.

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