



# KIRIBATI

June 2021



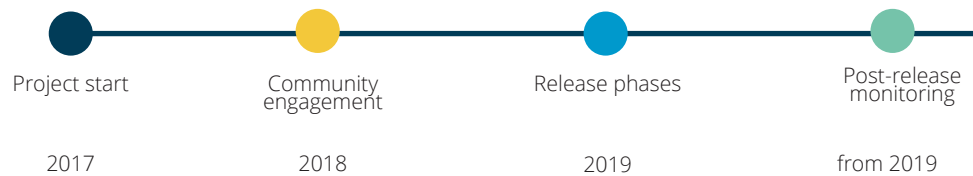
The World Mosquito Program in Kiribati is part of a global, not-for-profit initiative that is working to protect local communities from mosquito-borne diseases, like dengue, Zika, chikungunya and yellow fever.

In South Tarawa and Betio, public acceptance of the project (prior to the release of mosquitoes) was 97 per cent.

We released *Wolbachia*-carrying mosquitoes from mid-2018 to mid-2019 and we are now collecting data on the incidence of dengue and chikungunya in the release areas.

Since March 2019, we have worked with the Kiribati Ministry of Health and Medical Services to conduct long-term monitoring of the local mosquito population, observing how *Wolbachia* works in unique environments like Kiribati.

The community has been enthusiastically supporting the project in South Tarawa and Betio, with nearly 3150 volunteers helping to release mosquitoes, host bug traps and promote the project.



**1**  
project site

size of the project  
**1.50 km<sup>2</sup>**

**339,059**  
target population

**33**  
project staff

**PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE**  
measured by survey  
**97%** South Tarawa

**33**  
project staff

**3144**  
volunteers who released mosquitoes

**178**  
volunteers hosted BG traps

**2**  
local partners and supporters

## MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE BURDEN IN KIRIBATI

Dengue, Zika and chikungunya have a long history in the Pacific, including Kiribati. The World Mosquito Program has partnered with the Kiribati Government to bring our *Wolbachia* method to local communities.

Funded and supported by the Australian Government, the initiative was rolled out in high-risk communities across South Tarawa, including Betio, between June 2018 and June 2019.



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The WMP Kiribati team has done a fantastic job preparing this project to try and prevent dengue outbreaks like the one South Tarawa has been suffering through over recent months.

This project is so welcome in our home because we firmly believe it can help make Kiribati communities a healthier place to live.

- Eretii Timeon, Director of Public Health, Kiribati

#### Partners and supporters



#### Further information:

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We are so happy that community members from different ages and backgrounds accepted the opportunity to support our work, even though it seems strange to grow and release mosquitoes, these are very unique mosquitoes that will help make Kiribati a healthier place to live.

- Tebikau Tibwe, Project Coordinator

## About us

The World Mosquito Program is an international, not-for-profit initiative that works to protect the global community from mosquito-borne diseases including dengue, Zika, chikungunya and yellow fever.

Our approach has widespread support from communities, governments, research institutes and philanthropic partners around the world. Through collaboration and innovation, we can make a difference to millions of lives.

Currently the World Mosquito Program works in 11 countries in Asia, the Pacific and the Americas. Our aim is to protect 50 million people over the next five years.

In addition to the Oceania Office in Melbourne, Australia, the World Mosquito Program has a regional Asian Hub in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and plans for an Americas Hub in Panama City, Panama.

These hubs support projects in their respective regions and contribute to core global operations.

#### Contact us

