

# NEW CALEDONIA

June 2021

The World Mosquito Program in New Caledonia is part of a global, not-for-profit initiative that is working to protect local communities from mosquito-borne diseases.

In March 2018, we announced a new partnership with the Government of New Caledonia, the City of Nouméa and the Institute Pasteur in New Caledonia to protect communities in New Caledonia from mosquito-borne diseases.

After conducting laboratory studies to examine the impact of *Wolbachia* on dengue and chikungunya viruses in Nouméa, and

engaging with the community to explain our *Wolbachia* method and gain their acceptance, we are releasing *Wolbachia*-carrying mosquitoes across Nouméa.

We are also rigorously evaluating the impact of *Wolbachia* on the transmission of dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases in the area.

New Caledonia is the fourth country in the Western Pacific to join the global initiative.



**1**  
project site

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

**116,288**  
target population

**PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE**  
measured by survey  
**94%** Nouméa

**30**  
project staff

**1824**  
volunteers who  
released mosquitoes

**3**  
local partners  
and supporters

## MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE BURDEN IN NEW CALEDONIA

Mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue pose increasing health concerns for New Caledonia.

According to a World Health Organization report, more than 4000 dengue cases and 10 deaths were reported between September 2016 and June 2017.

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Many countries in the Pacific, including New Caledonia, are always at risk from the threat of mosquitoes. With the self-sustaining *Wolbachia* method, we have a chance to use the best of nature to fight the worst of nature.

- Dr Tristan Derycke, City of Noumea Deputy Mayor



## A beautiful day for the first release in New Caledonia

On a beautiful July day in New Caledonia's largest city and capital, Nouméa, a crowd gathered in Coconut Square for the ceremonial release of thousands of *Wolbachia* mosquitoes.

The World Mosquito Program provided 100 boxes of adult *Wolbachia* mosquitoes for people to release. With this and subsequent releases, planned until the end of march 2020, the *Wolbachia* mosquitoes will mate with wild mosquitoes, so that most of the mosquitoes in and around Nouméa will carry *Wolbachia*, reducing their ability to transmit mosquito-borne viruses such as dengue, Zika, chikungunya and yellow fever.

This was a historic moment, reflected by the attendees, who included representatives of important partners of the program – the Department of Health and Social Affairs of New Caledonia, the City of Nouméa Directorate of Health Risks, and the Institute Pasteur in New Caledonia – and local supporters from the EEC (electricity supplier), Fontaines d'eau du Mont-Dore (water supplier), and Office des Postes et Télécommunications de Nouvelle-Calédonie (telecommunications provider).

### Partners and supporters



### Further information:

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## 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

