

Oboch widows  
defy the odds with  
united strength  
and new ideas.

Stopp Malaria  
[www.biovision.ch/malaria](http://www.biovision.ch/malaria)



## NECESSITY IS THE MOTHER OF INVENTION



**Sol Gabetta**

Cellist and ambassador for the  
Biovision Benefit Concert\*

“Malaria has devastating effects for small children and young mothers in Africa. We cannot just look on and do nothing as thousands of people die from this disease simply because the means are not there to alleviate their suffering. Biovision can show the way to beat the scourge of malaria. This work deserves our recognition and support!”

\*Biovision Benefit Concert with Sol Gabetta: Thursday 25th March 2010, Basel  
(please see enclosed invitation).



Using fish against malaria mosquitoes: Consolata Muga, widow, presents the catch of the day: Perch in the pool belonging to the 'Siatok Self Help Group' eat the larvae of the malaria mosquitoes in the water and also improve the level of nutrition available for the population.

The brave widows of Oboch:

## Innovation, not resignation

The women of the Siatok Widows and Orphans Group in Oboch (Kenya) face a difficult fate. Deprived of their husbands, they must fight for the survival of their families. Aside from the pain caused by the loss of their spouses, they and their children go from day to day without any sort of income. "Women in Kenya are very much dependent on their husbands, since it is normally the men who earn money", explains Consolata Muga, initiator of the self help group. "We didn't want to starve", she remembers. And so, in 2002, this energetic woman formed the 'Siatok Widows and Orphans Group' with 21 fellow widows. Together they are defying the odds and realising a whole panoply of their ideas. Today, every woman earns around 400 shillings a week (ca. 6 CHF) through various activities, and information provided by the Stop Malaria project has enabled them to protect themselves and their children from malaria.



Members of the Siatok Self Help Group find a way: the widows weave baskets, operate a maize mill, keep goats and sell milk and meat. They receive support from scientists and advisers in the Biovision 'Stop Malaria' project in their fight against the disease. (Above).



### Dr. Charles Mbogo

Scientist and Stop Malaria Project Leader in Kenya

"Together with the population we were able to reduce cases of malaria by 50%! Our teaching and advice on malaria prevention in the villages is extensive, and also encourages self-motivation and initiative. The fish pools, for example, have many advantages for participants and contribute to controlling mosquito numbers, and therefore also to controlling malaria. Additionally we make use of tried and tested methods such as bed nets and treatment of breeding sites in settlements."

From research to application: Entomologists from the Biovision project (picture left) and the Ministry of Fishing advised the women of Oboch in the realisation of their tilapia breeding scheme. They have applied the knowledge themselves.

**“The project has taught us lots: firstly the perch help us in the fight against malaria mosquitoes, secondly we now have fresh fish to eat, and thirdly we get an additional income by selling the fish.”** (Consolata Muga, right).



**“Give a man a fish and he eats for a day. Give a man many fish and he eats for many days. Teach him to fish, and he will never go hungry.”**

Chinese saying

Two birds with one stone:

## Natural methods in malaria mosquito control

An important concern of the Siatok Self Help Group is the battle against rampant diseases such as HIV Aids and malaria. They were directly affected by malaria, since clay bricks are manufactured all over this region. The brickmakers were unwittingly breeding thousands upon thousands of malaria mosquitoes in the pools of water left behind by brick excavation. When, in 2004, Biovision’s ‘Stop Malaria’ project educated the people on the fatal relationship between the disease and brick manufacture, they began to take part in malaria prevention. They drained and filled the small pools, treated the larger bodies of water with environmentally friendly larvicide Bti, and put mosquito nets over their beds.

### On site training and advice

Through this Biovision project they not only learned how they can protect themselves and their children from malaria, but also that the larger pools were ideal for breeding fish. Tilapia, a favourite eating fish, gets its nutrients primarily from insect larvae and thus contributes to organic control of malaria mosquitoes.

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### Women who find a way

The widows of Oboch in Kenya take this saying literally, and have made a virtue out of necessity. They recognised that breeding tilapia promised an income, as the Lake Victoria fish market is far away even though fish is a favourite dinner dish in their region. The women combined their savings and converted a pool into a fish pond. They started with 900 young fish. The voracious fingerlings both thrived splendidly and kept the mosquito larvae numbers in check. Months later, in November 2007, the women entered the water with nets and cloths and removed hundreds of fish from their pond, each selling for around 30 shillings, or to be taken home to be enjoyed with their children.

First results give hope:  
In Biovision's Stop Malaria  
project in Nyabondo, Kenya,  
cases of malaria among  
small children dropped from  
60% to 20% in a short time.



Biovision's holistic approach:

## Healthy people and a healthy environment

Malaria is the biggest killer of all tropical diseases. Every thirty seconds a child in Africa dies from this disease. This dangerous pathogen is transmitted by mosquitoes. But malaria can be stopped! The Swiss Biovision Foundation tackles the disease at its root - successfully, sustainably, and without poisons! The key to sustainability is the inclusion of the affected population. The Stop Malaria projects explain the prevention methods - mosquitoes and breeding sites are controlled and the use of bed nets is encouraged. Biovision projects also serve as training sites for sustainable mosquito control.

### Stopp DDT

The notorious insecticide DDT is banned worldwide - except in malaria control. In India and many African states, DDT is used in increasing amounts against mosquitoes. Scientists like Hans Rudolf Herren warn of the grave consequences for humans and the environment.

At the beginning of May 2009, a delegation from Biovision Foundation, icipe international insect research institute in Nairobi and the Millennium Institute in Washington D.C took a stand for environmentally friendly methods of malaria control: At the conference of member states of the Stockholm Convention in Genf, the positive results of environmentally compatible and effective methods against malaria were presented - with success: the representatives of 122 attendant states decided to henceforth promote alternatives to DDT, such as those successfully used in Biovision's projects, so that use of DDT can be prohibited without exception.

## Biovision - a future for all, naturally

### With your help, human lives can be saved!

For over 10 years, Biovision has promoted the development, dissemination and application of ecological, environmentally friendly initiatives, with which people in developing regions can help themselves. Biovision is a non-profit organisation recognised by Zewo.

Thank you for your donation! Account: PC 87-193093-4



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