

January 3rd, 2010

Terms of Reference – Technical Support to Liberia National Malaria Control Program

Dates: January 17th – February 2nd, 2011

Consultant: Mrs Mary Kante

Background:

Liberia's entire population of approximately 3.5 million people is at risk of contracting malaria. In 2009, a Malaria Indicator Survey took place and illustrated that net use in the country, despite the efforts of the National Malaria Control Program and partner organizations, remains low at 33%. Malaria prevalence (based on rapid diagnostic tests) was 37%.

Liberia is in the middle of a 5-year, \$37 million malaria grant from the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund), which is paying for personnel, technical assistance, infrastructure development and commodities. Several international and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) provide major support to malaria prevention and control efforts as well through importation and distribution of insecticide-treated nets (ITNs), antimalarial drugs and training of healthcare workers and community health volunteers. The NMCP recently revised its 2005-2010 National Malaria Control Strategy.¹

The Liberia National Malaria Control Program has made extensive efforts to improve malaria prevention and control in the country. Approximately 2.6 million ITNs were distributed in Liberia between 2005 and 2009 through various channels: door-to-door, antenatal clinic (ANC) and during health outreach activities. The 2009 Malaria Indicator Survey (MIS) showed that household ownership of ITNs was 47%, but only 27% of children under five and 33% of pregnant women had slept under a net the night prior to the survey.

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In an effort to better understand the effectiveness of the distribution channels that have been used to date to inform future planning, and to respond to donor requests for a clear LLIN distribution strategy, the NMCP has requested technical support from the Alliance for Malaria Prevention (AMP). AMP will work closely with the WARN focal point to ensure that efforts to support Liberia's NMCP are well coordinated.

The consultant will undertake the following activities during the mission to Liberia:

1. Assess the effectiveness of currently used distribution mechanisms in the country, including mass campaigns, routine distribution through antenatal clinics (ANC) and door-to-door distribution. This will begin with meetings at the NMCP and will continue through meetings with key partners, as identified by the NMCP.
2. Review the existing ITN policy (2004).
3. Develop a comprehensive strategic plan and policy for LLINs in Liberia to replace the 2004 ITN policy.
4. Work with the NMCP and partners involved in the upcoming distribution of LLINs (350,000 funded through USAID) to develop distribution, communication and monitoring and evaluation plans.
5. Provide technical support to the NMCP Vector Control Unit as per in-country discussions and requests.

Deliverables from the consultancy

1. Summary of the effectiveness of currently used distribution mechanisms, including a SWOT

¹ President's Malaria Initiative: Malaria Operational Plan FY11, Liberia.

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- (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis.
2. Summary of discussions with NMCP and key partners.
 3. Comprehensive strategic plan and policy for LLINs in Liberia that can be used from 2011 – 2015.
 4. LLIN distribution plan and supporting plans for communication and monitoring and evaluation (where necessary / possible).

Timeline for deliverables:

It is proposed that an initial planning mission takes place in January 2011. Two consultants (one strategy and one logistics) have been identified to come to the country and work with NMCP to develop a realistic timeline for the deliverables required. The same consultants will be made available to NMCP based on the timeline developed to complete all deliverables of the consultancy. It is expected that all deliverables will be complete by the end of April 2011.