

AMP The Alliance for Malaria Prevention

Expanding the ownership and use of mosquito nets

Annual report 2011

This report covers the period 01/Jan/2011 to 31/Dec/2011

Background

The Alliance for Malaria Prevention (AMP) is a global partnership of more than 40 organizations whose goal is to expand the ownership and use of LLINs, which have been shown to reduce malaria incidence by 50%. AMP coordinates the financial and technical resources of its members to support countries conducting mass distributions of millions of LLINs as part of integrated national health campaigns or as standalone distributions. AMP partners have developed core technical competencies – planning, logistics, communications and monitoring and evaluation – to support these mass scale-up efforts.

Context

In 2011, the Alliance for Malaria Prevention welcomed the support of the United Nations Foundation to help meet our shared goal of ending malaria deaths in Africa. AMP sought to help equip countries with the technical capacity to deploy LLIN resources effectively and to sustain gains achieved. As partners who both uniquely understand and are affected by this challenge, AMP urged the malaria community to support strong capacity building efforts to support countries in the successful execution of NMCP LLIN strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

During the reporting period, AMP focused on building country capacity for LLIN scale-up by providing in country technical assistance, technical support by distance, developing specialised training curriculum and a comprehensive LLIN scale-up toolkit. AMP monitored country progress and bottlenecks through ongoing weekly conference calls and the annual AMP Partners' meeting, allowing for advocacy, resource mobilization and technical exchange.

Overview of activities

AMP implemented a robust set of activities in 2011 to support the successful rollout of LLIN campaigns and to facilitate knowledge and skills transfer at the local level. During the reporting period, AMP focused on 9 activities:

➤ Deployment of Technical Assistance Support:

In support of the universal coverage targets, AMP is building and strengthening the skills of National Malaria Control Programs and partner organizations through the deployment of experts to advise staff in countries on mass campaigns. In response to requests from National Malaria Control Programs, LLIN scale-up experts provided targeted technical assistance via distance support and in country missions. AMP technical assistance providers supported four broad areas: **Planning, Logistics, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Communications**. During the reporting period, AMP provided technical assistance to 18 countries

In 2011, AMP provided in country technical support to 10 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, namely Burundi, Cameroun, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, and Sierra Leone.

16 countries received support by distance, through regular email contact and conference calls, namely Benin, Cameroun, Chad, Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, India, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone, Togo and Uganda.



Although technical assistance support was tailored to each country's unique needs, support areas broadly included the following:

For additional information:

www.allianceformalariaprevention.com

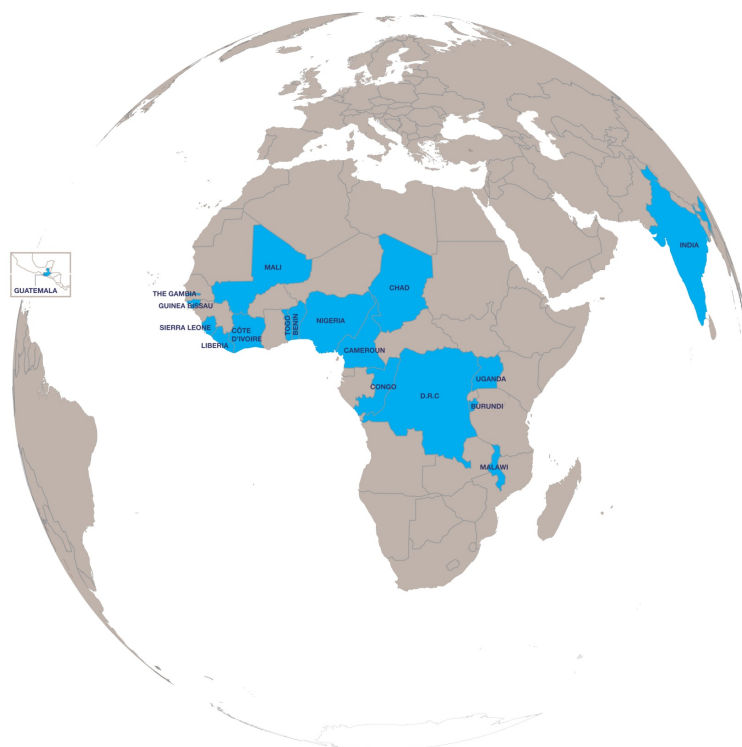
and allianceformalariaprevention@gmail.com

- campaign strategy definition: roles and responsibilities of actors involved, methods for allocating nets to households and household identification, methods for LLIN distribution
- development of plans of action, timelines of activities and budgets for mass distribution of LLINs
- identification of potential gaps in human and financial resources and recommendations regarding potential avenues to advocate for support
- logistics planning including: completion of detailed logistics plans and budgets, micro-planning to determine transport, storage and security needs, site visits to assess storage capacity assessment of supply chain management documents, development of key tools (LLIN master positioning plan, storage and security plan, preliminary transport plan, monitoring/tracking documents).
- comprehensive communications planning
- comprehensive monitoring and evaluation planning and development of appropriate M&E tools

All background information and documents for in country missions conducted by AMP, including terms of reference, final mission reports and country evaluations, are publically available through the AMP website at the following address:

<http://allianceformalariaprevention.com/technical-support.php>

Country support provided in 2011



➤ Mentoring Program

To date, international consultants, mainly based outside Africa, have provided the majority of AMP's support to countries through short-term missions. However, there is existing capacity in Africa that should be further developed in order to support country-based and "owned" technical capacity, facilitate country-to-country exchange of experience, and develop a pool of skilled, Africa-based consultants who can be deployed based on country requests for technical assistance. To further its efforts to build country and regional capacity in LLIN scale-up, AMP developed a mentoring concept paper in 2011 that will serve as the basis of the mentoring programme and will be revised with participating countries to ensure that the programme responds to the specific needs of the country. Going forward, this innovative mentoring program will enable local NMCP or in-country partner staff to shadow an AMP

technical assistance provider to gain hands on experience. These mentees can then become national leaders in conducting mass campaigns, and can even serve as regional experts for other countries.

AMP is committed to developing and increasing country and regional capacity using the mentoring approach developed with existing AMP technical assistance providers and selected Africa based individuals with appropriate profiles working for the NMCP or in-country partners. This mentoring system will help to decrease many of the present knowledge gaps within LLIN mass distribution campaign planning and implementation. Success in mentoring will depend on provision of adequate time, development of a clear process and objectives, ensuring proper pairing of mentor and mentee(s), and provision of suitable resources (including funds for training, communication, etc). It is envisioned that the framework developed in 2011 might serve as the starting point in the process of developing capacity through mentoring for scaling up coverage and utilization with LLINs to reach the RBM and MDG targets by 2015.

The mentoring concept paper developed by AMP during the reporting period is publically available through the AMP website at the following address:

<http://allianceformalariaprevention.com/resources/AMP%20Mentoring%20Concept%20Paper.pdf>

➤ LLIN International Training Workshops

Since 2009, AMP has conducted a series of trainings for National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) staff and partners to reinforce their leadership and capacity for planning, executing and evaluating mass LLIN distribution campaigns. More than 30 countries have participated in nine AMP trainings to date, conducted in both English and French. In 2011, AMP had planned to conduct four trainings on LLIN Scale-Up and Sustaining Gains (French and English) and Logistics (French and English). Due to funding constraints during the reporting period, it was decided that the AMP training workshops would be postponed to 2012. However, AMP technical assistance providers and partners worked in 2011 to develop and finalise the Scale-Up and Sustaining Gains, and the Logistics training curriculum in preparation of the trainings being rolled out in 2012.

Incorporating lessons learned in 2010 and 2011, notably around the shift to universal coverage, these trainings provide an opportunity to continue to build NMCP and partner capacity, and will enable countries to share experiences and address concerns to improve planning and implementation. Participants in the LLIN scale-up and sustaining gains sessions will develop a deeper understanding of overall planning and implementation of mass LLIN campaigns, as well as key considerations and tools for planning, implementation, communication and monitoring and evaluation. Training participants in the logistics workshop will learn effective logistics planning and implementation skills, including development of logistics plans and budgets, commodity tracking and hands on experience using tools such as transport and warehousing plans, waybills, and stock sheets. All participants at the training will profit from joint sessions about procurement and its impacts on both the programmatic and logistics elements of a mass distribution campaign.

➤ LLIN Scale-Up Toolkit Version 2: A Toolkit for Mass Distribution Campaigns to Increase Coverage and Use of Long-Lasting Insecticide Treated Nets

Version one of the AMP toolkit focused on integrated LLIN distributions targeting children under five years old as a priority. In 2011, AMP developed and finalised a revised version of the toolkit to provide more examples and build on lessons learned from universal coverage distributions, aimed at the entire population at-risk for malaria. This updated toolkit provides a step-by-step guide for the planning and implementation of mass LLIN distributions. Chapters include coordination, planning (strategy, plan of action, budget, timelines), procurement, logistics, communication, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, report writing (narrative and financial) and sustaining gains – moving beyond scale-up. In addition, a supporting CD was produced containing sample country reference documents and various templates that can be modified for use in local contexts.

The English version of the AMP toolkit was finalised during the reporting period, and was made available for download on the AMP website. In 2012, the AMP toolkit will be translated into French, and

printed for distribution to partners and RBM sub-regional network focal points, to country participants during AMP trainings, and to NMCPs and partners organizations on request.

The AMP toolkit version 2.0 and all supporting documents developed during the reporting period are publically available through the AMP website at the following address:

<http://allianceformalariaprevention.com/resources-view.php?categoryID=29>

➤ Annual Partners Meeting

The Alliance for Malaria Prevention held its annual partners meeting on 10-11th February 2011. The meeting was hosted by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Geneva, Switzerland. 120 participants attended the annual AMP partners meeting in 2011, including National Malaria Control Program staff from Ghana, Madagascar, Nigeria, Senegal and Uganda. The meeting served as a critical information sharing forum covering technical updates, challenges and lessons learned, LLIN scale-up progress and projected LLIN technical assistance needs, post-LLIN scale-up issues and opportunities, and other key topics related to LLIN distribution and utilization. National Malaria Control Program and in-country partners staff presented on their strategies and lessons learned from LLIN scale-up activities. The meeting provided key opportunities for sharing experiences and mobilizing partnerships.

➤ Technical Assistance Providers Workshop

In February 2011, AMP held a three-day workshop, convening eight technical assistance providers that have been supporting countries on LLIN distribution campaigns on the ground. The workshop focused on the review of challenges and lessons learned, resulting in an alignment on strategies and tools and an implementation plan for 2011 activities based on country requests. Participants explored new ways to build country capacity, including the development of additional implementation tools and the rollout of the mentoring program.

➤ AMP Core Group Meeting

The AMP Core Group meets on an annual basis for a two day planning meeting in August. In 2011, the United Nations Foundation (UNF) hosted the AMP Core Group meeting on August 22-23rd in Washington DC.

The objectives of the 2011 core group meeting were:

- To review AMP activities since the February 2011 AMP partners meeting
- To review the AMP work plan for the remainder of 2011 and define a resource mobilization strategy
- To review the AMP working groups and discuss any necessary changes for the remainder of 2011
- To review AMP reporting templates
- To discuss country priorities and upcoming technical assistance activities for the remainder of 2011
- To discuss possible working modalities with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

The AMP Core Group includes USAID (President's Malaria Initiative [PMI] and Centres for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC]), Johns Hopkins University Centre for Communication Programs (JHU-CCP), Malaria No More (MNM), Population Services International (PSI), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). The United Nations Foundation (UNF) officially became a member of the AMP Core Group during the 2011 AMP Core Group Meeting.

➤ AMP Staffing

The AMP Administrative Coordinator provided a vital role in 2011 in coordinating technical assistance deployments, AMP weekly calls and website maintenance, annual meetings, and tracking countries' LLIN distributions and progress against universal coverage targets for RBM.

➤ AMP Conference call line and website

To support activities and promote ongoing information exchange, AMP continued to facilitate a weekly call with updates on country progress and activities of its Working Groups throughout the reporting period. AMP also hosts a dedicated website: www.allianceformalariaprevention.com, which was translated and broadcast into French in 2011.

Conclusions

2011 was a highly successful year for the Alliance for Malaria Prevention. AMP had its highest annual productivity to date in terms of provision of technical assistance to countries, with support provided to a total of 18 countries, expanding its reach for the first time outside of sub-Saharan Africa to 2 countries, namely Guatemala and India. AMP has continued to demonstrate sound investment and 'value for money': a \$120,000 investment in technical assistance support to Cameroun supported a \$54 million national campaign and the delivery of over 8 million LLINs across the country. Overall, AMP contributed directly to the distribution of over 40 million nets in 18 countries during the course of the reporting period. While AMP faced challenges to access funding to roll out the Scale up and Sustaining Gains workshops and the Logistics workshops planned in 2011, a constructive planning exercise for the AMP trainings was conducted with strong partner contributions, and training curriculum are readily available for future roll out of the trainings in 2012. AMP also expanded its membership in the core group, to include partners such as UNICEF and UNF. A comprehensive mentoring approach was developed to build Africa based technical capacity, and AMP's reach was further expanded by providing French language versions of AMP website and administrative documents. Finally, AMP published the LLIN Scale-Up Toolkit Version 2.0, building on the direct experience of its partners in planning and implementing LLIN campaign distribution in countries throughout Africa. To quote Dr. Robert Newman, Director of the Global Malaria Programme, WHO:

"The AMP toolkit is an outstanding contribution for countries facing the challenge of scaling up LLIN coverage and utilization to meet their national goals of preventing illness and death due to malaria, and reaching the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDG)."