

Republic of Liberia T.A. Visit

Mission Sitrep #1

Date of report: May 8-16, 2017
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Reference: AMP Terms of Reference (ToR) dated April 27, 2017
Consultant in country: Marcy Erskine (Implementation), Greg Pirio (Communication) and Doug Mole (Logistics)
Mission dates: May 8-26, 2017

Situation: Liberia LLIN mass distribution campaign, which is supported by the Global Fund, is slated to take place between January and March 2018. Approximately 2.6 million LLINs will be distributed to 15 counties within Liberia with the objective of achieving universal coverage of the entire population. NMCP/MOHSW will ensure that the normative guidance is set for the campaign and will be responsible for procurement of the LLINs, as well as coordination, supervision and monitoring of the campaign. PLAN International is the PR and will work with contracted Service Providers to fulfill implementation. PMI is supporting the TA provided by AMP.

Liberia's last campaign took place in 2015. The campaign planning commenced in October 2013, but the unexpected eruption of the EBV situation in Liberia led to a need to change strategies for the distribution in line with recommendations around personal contact and procurement (warehousing, transport, printing, etc.) was a challenge given increasing demand on limited supply. Despite the challenges of the previous campaign, over 2.5M LLINs were distributed to beneficiaries throughout the country.

Meetings/visit contacts:

During the first week in-country, individuals meetings were held by Doug and Greg (who arrived prior to Marcy) and from Wednesday May 10th, a macroplanning team (consisting of NMCP, Plan, VectorWorks and AMP) has been meeting daily to move forward discussions related to the macroplanning based on the lessons learned from the previous campaign.

An introductory meeting was held on May 15 with IFRC Head of Country Office and the IFRC Finance delegate to review and understand the security regulations in Monrovia, Liberia. An AMP country mission updated was given to the IFRC Head of Country Office on the objections and background of the 2018 LLIN campaign.

Summary of meetings:

Introductions and terms of reference were discussed. A draft work-plan for this support mission was reviewed with the Macro Planning Team (MPT) and amended to reflect specific requirements and desired outcomes.

Objectives of mission:

The macro-planning team (MPT) agreed that the following should be delivered at the end of the first mission:

- Draft campaign plan of action (POA);
- Draft logistics plan of action (LPOA);
- Draft communication plan of action (CPOA);
- Draft timeline;
- Draft risk assessment and mitigation plan;
- Draft training plan; and
- Draft campaign budget for initial review and input.

Implementation/Technical:

Discussions so far have focused on:

- Review of strengths, lessons learned and recommendations from the 2014 – 2015 campaign. Overall, two different strategies were planned for in the previous campaign (door-to-door registration and vouchers + fixed site distribution; door-to-door LLIN distribution with a fixed number of nets per household). The latter strategy (door-to-door LLIN distribution) was adopted in the majority of the country given the EBV situation, while a last distribution in Monrovia of ~100,000 LLINs in areas that had been missed used the initially identified strategy.
- Coordination structures that will be put in place for the 2018 campaign. Given that the same people are involved in the majority of the coordination structures (national coordination committee and sub-committees), a modified coordination structure is being proposed.
- Implementation arrangements between PR and service providers was discussed based on the national campaign implementation strategy.
- Quantification of LLINs – the last census was more than 10 years ago, with the new census to be done in 2019. The figures for the population, even for the previous campaign, were problematic. Given that the last census was in 2008, a buffer of 10% has been added to the total net need. However, it is good to note that movement of buffers can be challenging and expensive and emphasis needs to be put on detailed and comprehensive microplanning to have a better idea of the actual population at this time. Efforts will be made to get microplanning done as early as possible to communicate figures to PPM if possible.
- Macro hypotheses – discussion took place around the number of people / teams required for the household assessment phase and the number of distribution points. In the interior of Liberia, the population is very sparse in many areas, while in the urban area, the population is extremely dense. Both of these situations have their own challenges and the team is trying to address them as best as possible.

Communication

Discussions focused around:

- Communication methods and lessons learned from last LLIN campaign.
- Research findings illuminating behavioural and practical barriers to net use
- Identification of key communication activities to be included in the global implementation timeline

Logistics

- It was discussed to clearly communicate with the GF the country's procurement qualification requirements, ensuring compliance with the campaign strategy.
- NMCP and PLAN Liberia will be requesting containerized shipment down to county levels in their procurement request to GF. This will need to be closely verified on delivery to confirm quantities are correct and according to shipment documentation. Logistics reception committee procedures will need to be in place for all macro deliveries to mitigate any LLIN shortages.
- Storage - Central warehousing is in Monrovia for Monsterrado, with buffer LLINs also remaining in central warehouse
- CLT/PLAN will need two separate tenders for transport to counties, one for buffers LLINs and one for Monrovia to Monsterrado districts deliveries.
- A restricted tender selection based on availability may be needed, done by service providers (partners) responsible for the district to HF and fix sites/DPs. distribution of LLINs.
- Discussions were held on district to pre-position / distribution point SCM LLIN activities.

The Week Ahead - May 16-23, 2017

Work has been planned around further refinement of strategy, implementation timeline and campaign plan of action. Later in the week the technical work-streams will start detailed planning in their areas of responsibility.

An additional technical TA will arrive in country on May 20, 2017 for the last remaining week of support.