

Republic of Liberia T.A. Visit

Mission Sitrep #2

Date of report: May 17-23, 2017
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Reference: AMP Terms of Reference (ToR) dated April 27, 2017
Consultant in country: Marcy Erskine (Implementation), James Ssekitooleko (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 this second week in-country, group meetings were held with the Macro Planning Team (MPT) consisting of NMCP, Plan, VectorWorks and AMP) daily to move forward discussions related to the macroplanning based on the lessons from previous campaigns and 2018 implementation campaign proposed plan.

An introductory meeting was held on May 18 with PMI / USAID Country Office to brief on the AMP TA mission and terms of reference. Updates on campaign discussions, objections and background of the 2018 LLIN campaign were discussed.

Implementation/Technical:

Discussions so far have focused on:

- Microplanning – time was spent to review the process used in the past campaign and to discuss how we can improve in 2018. Given the long time since the census, early and detailed microplanning to update the population figures is going to be critical, particularly if there is a need to mobilize additional resources to fill an expected gap in nets.
- LLIN allocation and beneficiary identification – the LLIN allocation for macro planning purposes will be the same as for the previous campaign (1 net to 2 people, maximum 3 nets per household). The NMCP and Plan have opted for a voucher distribution during the household assessment, and discussions centred around ensuring that vouchers are not falsifiable, particularly the ones that will be used in Monrovia.
- LLIN distribution – the distribution of LLINs will be done through a fixed site approach. During the previous campaign, a fixed site approach was used for the distribution of 100,000 PMI-funded nets in Monrovia. One of the critical lessons learned from that experience was a need for strengthened communication, given that people are used to nets being distributed door-to-door in previous campaigns.
- Supervision, monitoring and evaluation – the process used in the previous campaign was reviewed and it was agreed to reinforce elements that were done well and strengthen aspects that were less successful. The

NMCP M&E team will review documents related to the rapid monitoring during the household assessment and make a decision on the interest in pursuing this type of monitoring.

Communication

Discussions focused around:

- Radio in Monterrado county was discussed on 2 key criteria, first the look of the audience and second the broadcast coverage.
- Discussion were held on possible procurement of radio stations time at county seats and county radio stations – broadcast coverage /number of stations (population).
- Risk mitigation was developed as a draft document covering communication possible risks.
- Discussions on empowering community health volunteers in IPC technics to improve hang-up and use rates.

Logistics

- It was discussed to clearly communicate with the GF the country's procurement qualification requirements, ensuring compliance with the campaign strategy.
- NMCP has planned to place macro LLIN procurement order including containers & buffer plus warehousing for central level in Monrovia.
- Discusses were held on responsibility of PLAN Liberia developing calls for tender for warehousing at central level (Monterrado & buffer).
- Review and discussions were held on Macro delivery decision on whether to purchase shipping containers (end of life) or acquire physical storage space at county levels. Further research was agreed on to provide better clarity.
- Processes and budget implications on LLIN reverse logistics were reviewed with Plan Liberia and NMCP. As well, reversed logistics roles & responsibilities for service providers (for each distribution point) planning was initially formed.
- Vouchers will be received at county levels by a reception committee for each county. Management of vouchers to be further discussed to ensure security of the vouchers (as vouchers are nets).
- District level storage – locations to be assessed during review of quotations to be collected at district level (by Plan Liberia or Service Providers).

The Week Ahead - May 24-26, 2017

Work has been planned around further refinement and aligning the draft campaign timeline activities and the detailed campaign budget. Discussion and review of draft Risk Mitigation strategy and how the MPT will input activities on this document.

A TA debrief is scheduled for Friday, May 26 at 11:00 at NMCP's conference room. Prior to debrief, a sample of a monthly worksheet/roadmap will be reviewed. This roadmap will be useful during weekly calls with AMP to track progress and/or completion of critical implementation actions.

An additional technical TA, James Ssekitooleko arrived in country on May 20, 2017 for the last remaining week of support. Both communications and logistics TAs will be departing mission area on May 26, 2017.