

Alliance for Malaria Prevention: Burundi and CAR

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Dates covered by report: March 15 – 21, 2017

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Context Burundi:

- National campaign originally planned for June 2017 has been pushed back to late July – 6,471,692 LLINs were ordered mid-October 2016 and delivery expected in all 18 provinces between April and mid-June 2017.
- Declaration by the Minister of Health of malaria epidemic in northern provinces may result in re-scheduling of deliveries to the affected area. Discussions will be held in the next few days with NMCP and CARITAS regarding the possibility to distribute as early as possible (ahead of the rest of the country) in these provinces.
- Campaign budget still not finalized as of mid-March. Latest review which took place on 13th and 14th still pending GF approval.
- No specific up-date available on security context in Burundi since last AMP mission in November 2016. NMCP and CARITAS seemingly unwilling to share any concerns in that respect.
- The priorities of the current mission are:
 - Obtain latest adjustments to the campaign budget (made on 13th and 14th March) in order to align district budgets in the micro-planning template, ahead of ToT on Wednesday March 15th.
 - Conduct central level ToT for micro-planning (3 days).
 - Conduct central level logistics training (1 day).

Activities Burundi:

- Conducted micro-planning ToT on 15, 16 and 17 March. A dynamic group of 29 people participated in the training. Participants were in majority from the two PRs (PNILP and Caritas) but also a few other MoH departments were represented, as well as EPI and PSI. About a third of the group had participated in micro-planning for the 2014 campaign and was already familiar with the general principle of this crucial activity. After a brief introduction to the 2017 campaign and a review of the roles and responsibilities of the two PRs, a mapping simulation took place on the first day and part of the morning of the second day. This was followed with the presentation of two micro-planning templates (one for rural and one for urban areas). An exercise on filling out these templates (with the mapping data) was carried out during the second and third days. Group work was animated and generated many questions and discussions. The training was concluded with an exercise on correcting and cleaning up the micro-plans, and the identification of 9 teams of facilitators (each assigned 2 provinces) to roll-out the micro-planning in the field as early as the following week.

- Conducted a logistics ToT on Saturday 18 March with nine participants from the two PRs. Ideally this training should have been done over two days. Given only one day left in the consultant's mission, the ToT focussed essentially on supply chain accountability and micro-transport planning. A simulation exercise for LLIN tracking (covering the entire supply chain, including reverse logistics) took most of the day. The last hour was spent going over an example of a micro-transport plan highlighting the basic steps and elements that must be included to ensure proper identification of types and number of vehicles, planning of delivery routes, duration and overall cost of the transport operation.

Context CAR:

- CAR covered 4 of its 7 health regions in 2014 – 2015, but is left with three regions to cover (4, 5 and 6). In addition, Bangui (1st region covered in 2014) needs to be done again this year. LLINs have been procured with GF funding and nets have already started to arrive in Bangui. 20 of 57 containers have already been off-loaded and LLINs stored in one of the two rented warehouse. Another batch of 17 containers is on its way and should arrive in the next few days.
- Despite a period of calm in many parts of the country, including Bangui, the regions targeted for the 2017 first phase distribution (e.g. not Bangui) are still insecure and have significant access difficulties, as well as challenges in terms of infrastructure (e.g. roads, warehouse options, etc.) and resources (e.g. banks and other means to facilitate payments). In view of possible problems for distribution in targeted regions, planning for Bangui will be undertaken as soon as possible.
- To keep up with the campaign timeline, micro-planning for targeted regions should be done at the latest in the next couple of weeks. However, this crucial activity is likely to be further delayed if current bottleneck regarding selection and contracting of implementing partners is not resolved soon.
- The priorities of this mission are:
 - To do a review of LLIN storage conditions in Bangui: warehouses assessment, reception procedures, warehouse management and tracking tools.
 - To support the review and finalization of macro-planning documents (PoA, LPoA, timeline and budget)
 - To review tools, agenda and organization of micro-planning workshops for targeted regions.

Activities CAR:

- Briefing with the Head of Delegation and campaign coordinator.
- Visited the two warehouses in Bangui. Off-loading of two containers was taking place and provided opportunity to assess procedures used for proper accountability in the reception of LLINs. General conclusions are that warehouses are adequate and procedures put in place are adhered to. More details, including a few recommendations for further improvement will be provided in the mission report.
- Started review of campaign and logistics PoAs.

The week ahead:

- Finalize the review and update of macro-planning documents.
- Review with the country team the training material (ToR, agenda, mapping and MP template) for micro-planning, as well as provide guidance on rolling out the MP workshops in the field.
- Debrief with head of Delegation and campaign coordinator.
- Start journey home on Sunday 26 March.