




# 2020

## ANNUAL REPORT



More than 162 million insecticide-treated nets were distributed in 2020, despite the COVID-19 restrictions – nearly three quarters of the pre-COVID-19 target for 2020.

“

Microplanning remains one of the most critical aspects of campaign planning to ensure a successful ITN distribution ... in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic where local information about access, attitudes and perceptions and acceptability of interventions from outside should all inform operational plans and budgets.”

**Alliance for Malaria Prevention**  
*Microplanning for a mass ITN distribution campaign  
in the COVID-19 context, November 2020.*

**Cover photo:** ITN campaign in Mali: door-to-door distribution agents in Yorosso District, Mali, 22 June 2020. With thanks to PSI Mali.

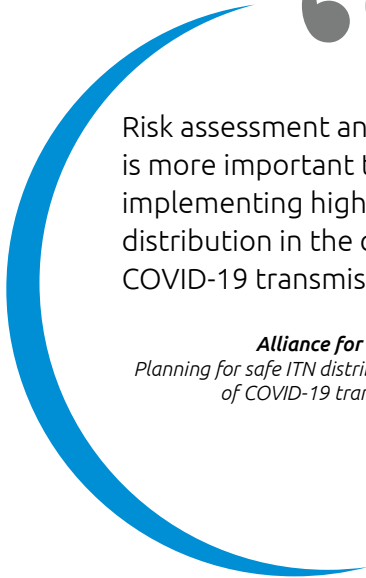


“

This achievement is testament to the courage and leadership of countries to move ahead with their planned campaigns during an extraordinarily complex and uncertain period. It also speaks to their ability, with the support of local and international organizations, to navigate the raft of restrictions that were put in place in an effort to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.”

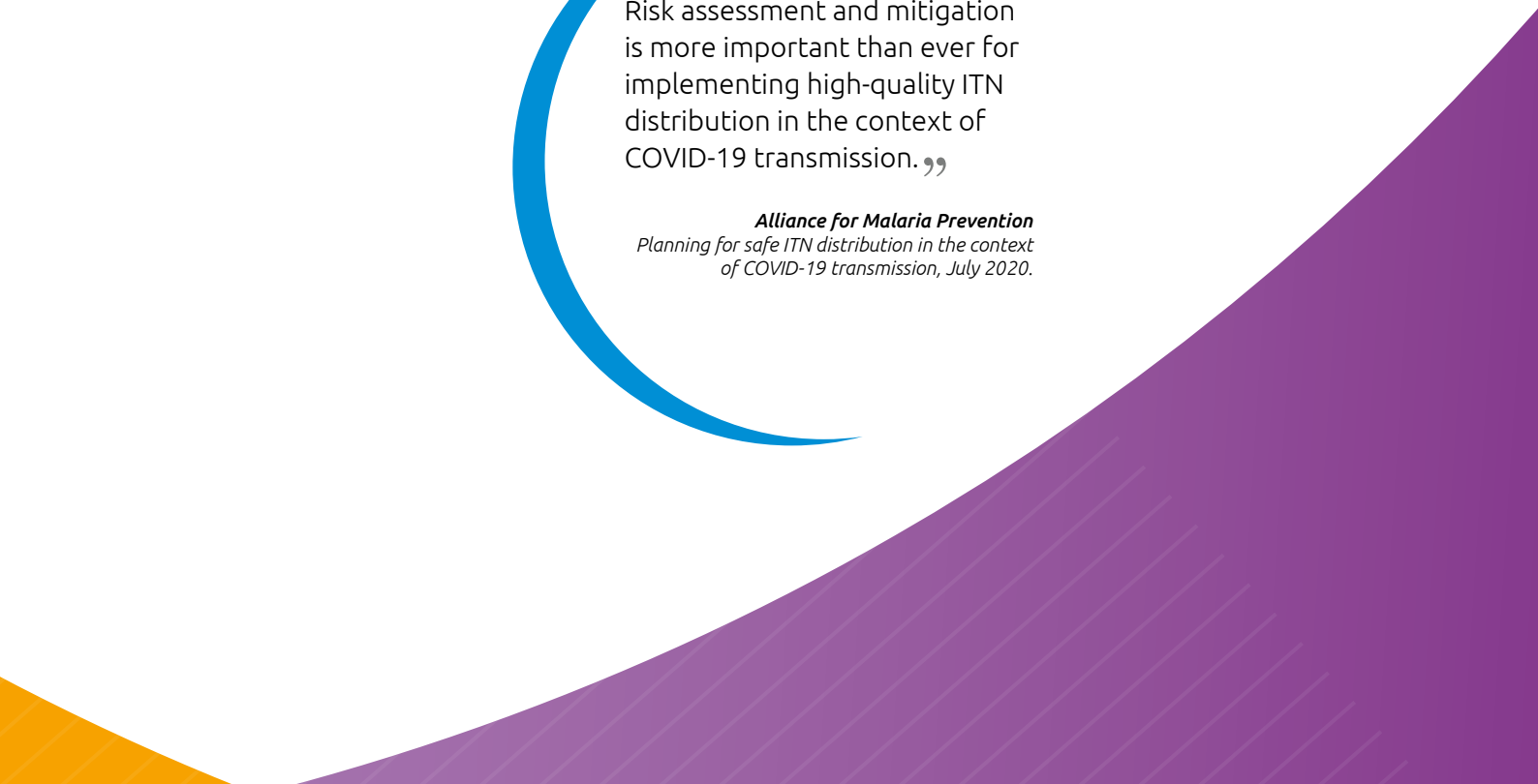
**Jagan Chapagain,**  
*Secretary General of the International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)*

“



Risk assessment and mitigation is more important than ever for implementing high-quality ITN distribution in the context of COVID-19 transmission.”

**Alliance for Malaria Prevention**  
*Planning for safe ITN distribution in the context  
of COVID-19 transmission, July 2020.*



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# Background

Established in 2004, the Alliance for Malaria Prevention (AMP) is a global partnership of more than 40 organizations, including government, private sector, faith-based and humanitarian organizations, positioned within the Country / Regional Support Partner Committee (CRSPC) of the RBM Partnership to End Malaria (RBM Partnership). The RBM Partnership's CRSPC provides a platform to engage the RBM Partnership community in coordinating support to countries and regions as they execute their malaria control and elimination programmes, through activities ranging from country resource mobilization and advocacy to implementation support. The AMP partnership focuses on scaling up efforts to prevent malaria through achieving and sustaining universal access to, and use of, insecticide-treated nets (ITNs), and is made up of partners who both uniquely understand and are affected by this challenge. These life-saving nets have been shown to reduce uncomplicated malaria incidence by 50 per cent and all-cause child mortality by 17 per cent<sup>1</sup>, accelerating progress towards WHO's Global Technical Strategy (GTS) targets.

Through its coordination of partners within the malaria community, AMP advocates for resolution of ITN distribution challenges and resource mobilization in support of members' shared priorities, while ensuring global tracking of ITN mass campaigns. AMP facilitates trainings aimed at strengthening and sharing the skills of national malaria programmes and partner organization staff, focusing on ITN campaign planning, logistics, social and behaviour change (SBC), and monitoring and evaluation. AMP also provides operational guidance through a comprehensive toolkit focused on universal coverage ITN campaigns. The extensively-consulted AMP toolkit serves as a base document and is complemented by a series of "briefs", bringing the information up to date as more experience is gained by countries undertaking mass ITN distribution in a wide variety of different circumstances. Additional guidance on different themes is developed based on identified needs and iterative learning from country experiences. Finally, based on requests from national malaria programmes, AMP provides globally-recognized expert technical assistance through distance and in-country missions to support countries in successfully planning and executing complex ITN distribution campaigns, in line with national malaria programme ITN policies and strategies.

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1. Pryce J, Richardson M, Lengeler C. Insecticide-treated nets for preventing malaria. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2018, Issue 11. Art. No.: CD000363. <https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD000363.pub3/full?>

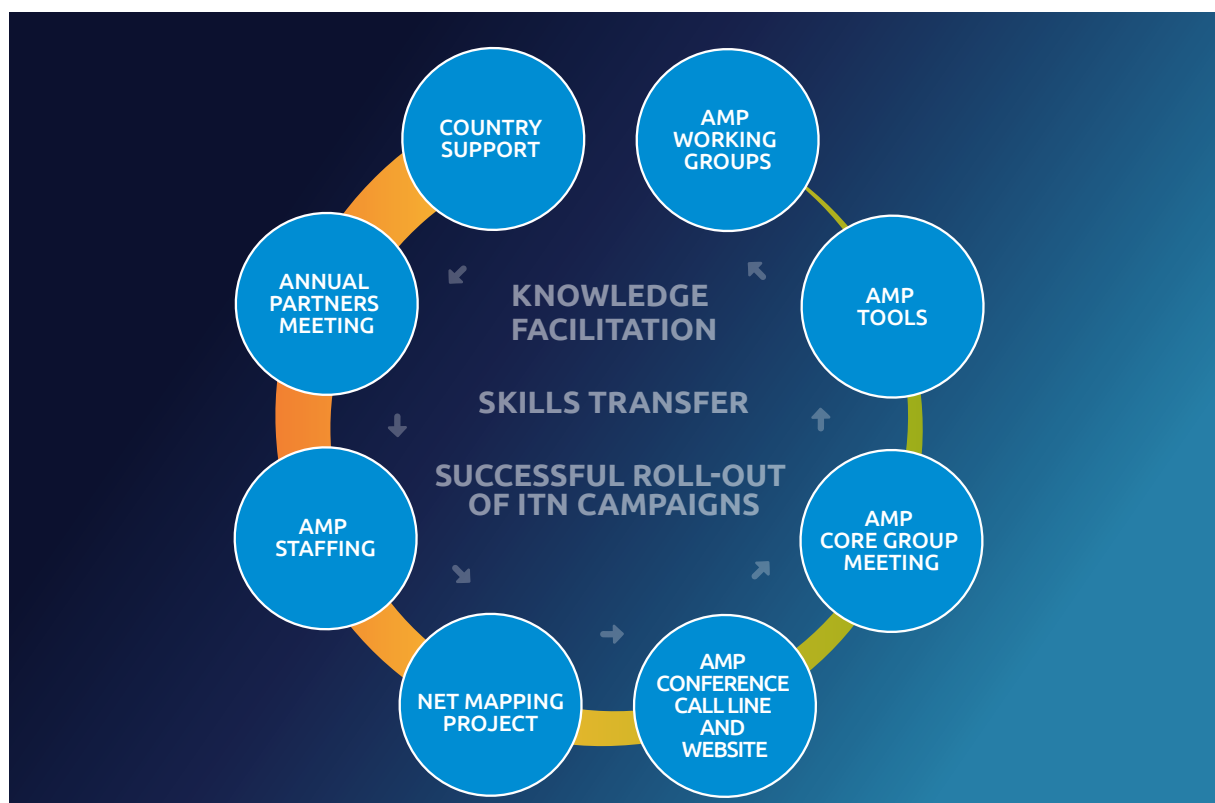
# Overview of 2020 activities

In the course of 2020, as in previous years, AMP sought to support countries to gain the technical capacity to deploy ITN resources effectively, including new ITN types to address insecticide resistance, and to sustain previously achieved gains. Over 31 mass campaigns were planned, making 2020 the largest campaign year in a three-year cycle of campaigns. As the emerging COVID-19 pandemic threatened these campaigns, there were global concerns that countries would either postpone or cancel their ITN campaigns entirely.

From March 2020, AMP worked with its global partners, such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund), the World Health Organization (WHO), the RBM Partnership and the US President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), to rapidly develop initial guidance and recommendations for countries to adapt their ITN campaign strategies to the new COVID-19 context.

This provided countries with technical information to support high-level decisions relating to malaria prevention through ITN distributions, prior to the upcoming rainy seasons in the respective countries. With most international travel halted, AMP also quickly reimagined its approaches to building ITN campaign capacity in countries by establishing virtual platforms for distance-based technical assistance.

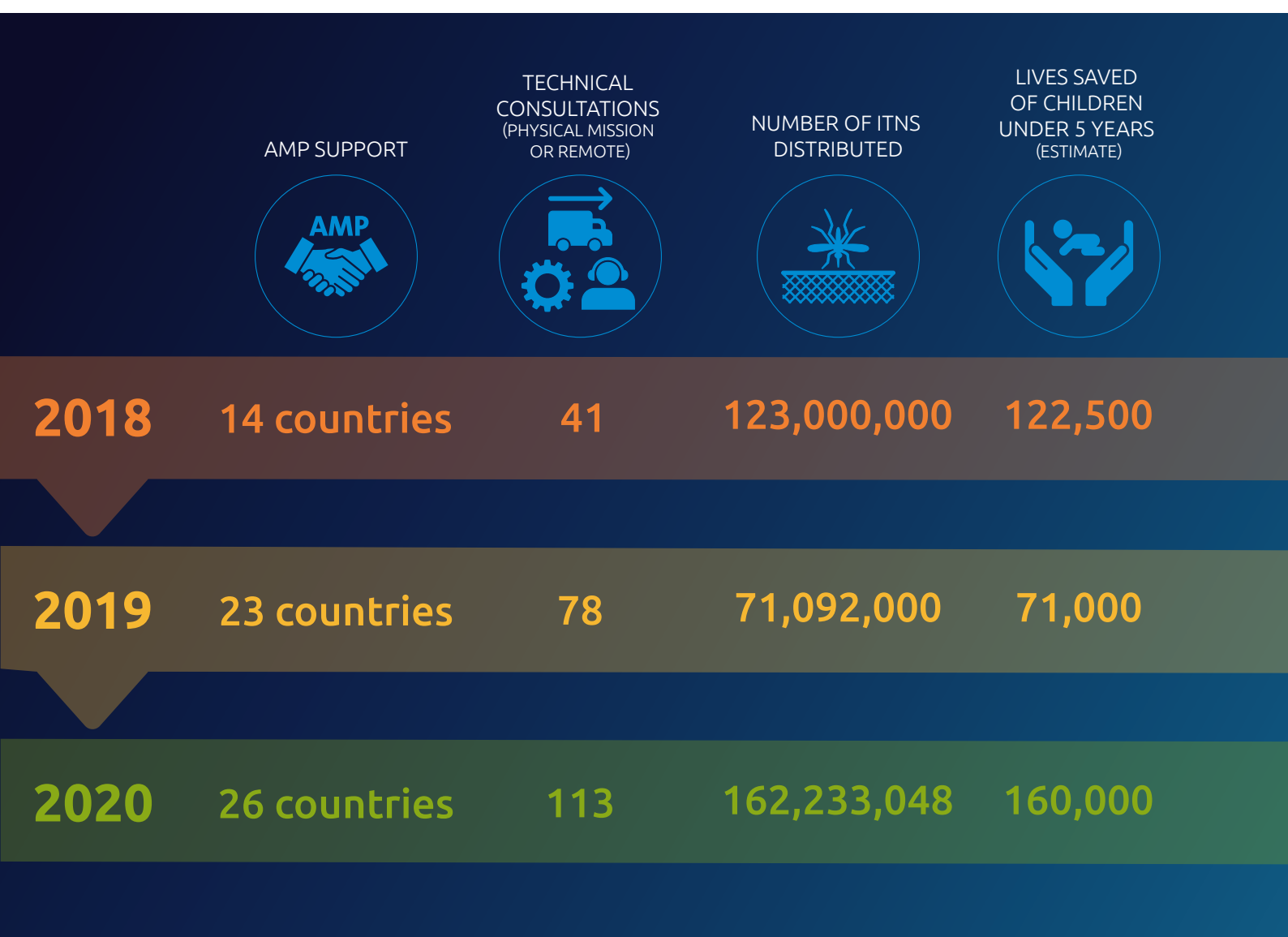
Each country needed to modify its strategies and approaches for mass campaigns to align with global and national measures to reduce COVID-19 transmission, including limitations on gatherings to reduce crowding, physical distancing, and limiting internal population movement. In practice, this meant that significant ITN campaign modifications and budget revisions, such as shifts from fixed point to door-to-door distribution, took place across the countries supported by AMP.



Data received by AMP as of mid-January 2021 show that despite the extraordinary circumstances of the pandemic, an impressive 74 per cent of planned ITNs were successfully distributed in 2020, amounting to 162,233,048 ITNs across 31 countries. All the while, AMP continued to monitor country progress and address bottlenecks through weekly

conference calls, advanced projects and priorities through its working groups, chaired the ITN/Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) Task Force calls under WHO's COVID-19-malaria response and continued promoting advocacy, resource mobilization and technical exchange between partners and countries in this new challenging context.

The exceptional impact of AMP in this unpredictable year is illustrated below.



# 1. Country support for ITN mass campaign distributions

## a. Technical assistance to countries

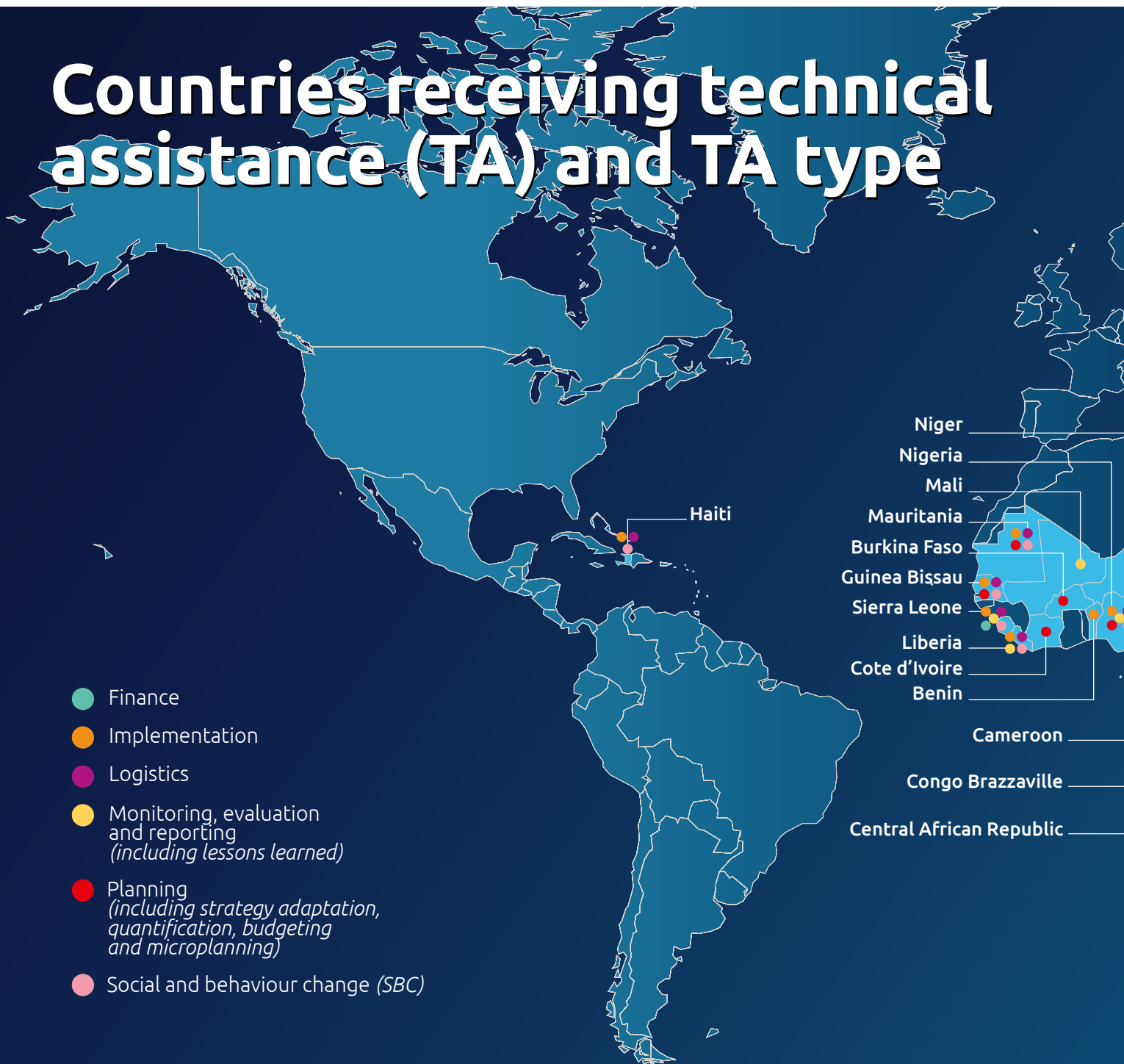
AMP provides support through technical assistance in the broad areas of planning (including strategy development and adaptation; quantification; budgeting; microplanning; risk assessment and mitigation; data collection); logistics; finance; implementation; monitoring, evaluation and

reporting (including lessons learned); and social and behaviour change. In providing technical assistance, AMP both proactively works with countries that need support in determining the type and schedule for technical assistance and responds to country-driven requests for AMP

## Countries receiving technical assistance (TA) and TA type

- Finance
- Implementation
- Logistics
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting (including lessons learned)
- Planning (including strategy adaptation, quantification, budgeting and microplanning)
- Social and behaviour change (SBC)

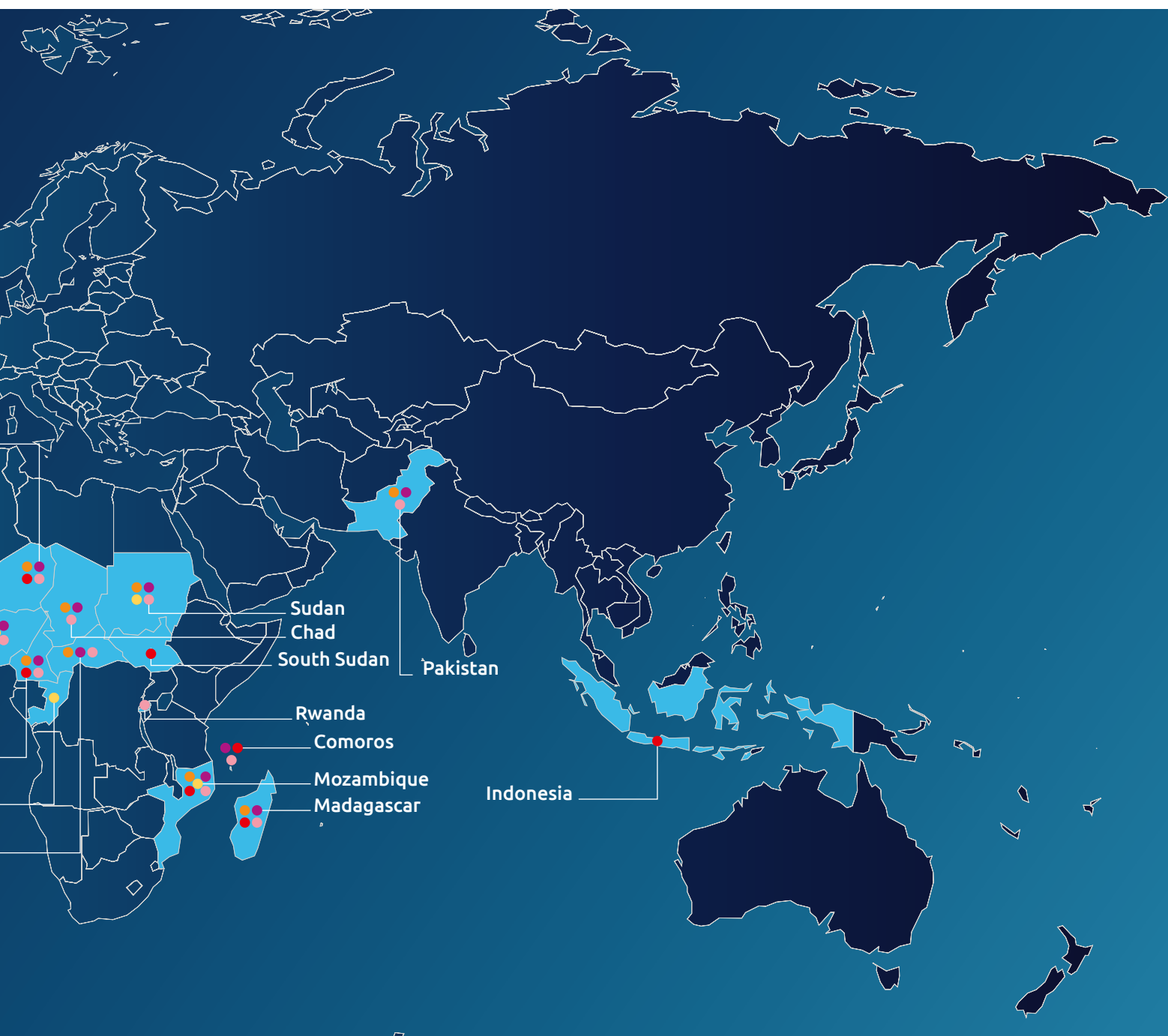
Niger  
Nigeria  
Mali  
Mauritania  
Burkina Faso  
Guinea Bissau  
Sierra Leone  
Liberia  
Cote d'Ivoire  
Benin  
Cameroon  
Congo Brazzaville  
Central African Republic





technical assistance support. In the course of 2020, AMP identified technical assistance providers (TA providers) based on their competencies, availability and location, who provided 113 technical consultations in support of 26 countries. Of the 99 technical consultations provided to African

countries in 2020, almost 70 per cent were conducted by TA providers based in Africa. This reflects AMP's continuing commitment to mentor and build a cadre of ITN campaign experts based on the African continent.



## b. Efficiency in microplanning approaches

As part of the campaign efficiency work led by the Task Force for Global Health and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, AMP participated in a two-day meeting in London in February 2020 to look at microplanning approaches used across different campaign platforms, such as neglected

tropical diseases, immunization and ITN mass campaigns. Many similarities across programmes were observed, including challenges regarding baseline populations.

## c. AMP Technical Assistance provider refresher training

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, AMP led refresher training sessions for its TA providers from April to August 2020, averaging two or three sessions a week. A survey to obtain feedback on the sessions was carried out in August 2020, in advance of the AMP Core Group meeting; largely positive results led to sessions continuing every

two weeks until December 2020, and are planned to continue in 2021. The refresher training focused on COVID-19 adaptations to campaign operations, challenges with different aspects of planning and implementation of campaigns, as well as sharing of country and TA provider experience.

## d. WHO COVID-19-Malaria Workstream

AMP participated in the WHO COVID-19 Malaria Workstream focusing on malaria technical guidance and chaired the ITN/IRS taskforce under the WHO COVID-19 Malaria Workstream for commodities and supplies. In the latter role, AMP facilitated a

weekly (later monthly) call and developed a risk register circulated to the leadership of WHO and partners for action around critical bottlenecks that could affect sustaining global gains in the fight against malaria.



## 2. Annual Partners' meeting

The AMP annual Partners' meeting took place on 30 and 31 January 2020, with some 140 participants, including from 14 malaria-endemic countries. The number of participants from ministries of health and national malaria programmes amounted to 21 per cent of all participants, while attendance from malaria-endemic countries (including local implementing organizations) amounted to 34 per cent of all participants, exceeding malaria-endemic country representation in the past three years. The meeting was hosted at the headquarters of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in Geneva, Switzerland, after a number of years offsite during renovations. In welcoming the annual Partners' meeting back to its headquarters building, IFRC reaffirmed its strong ongoing commitment to hosting the AMP partnership.

The key theme identified for the AMP Partners' meeting in 2020 was: "Using Data to Innovate and Align with Country Priorities", with topics including:

- Mapping and stratification: using data to improve campaign efficiency and impact
- New ITN types to address insecticidal resistance
- Efforts to improve accuracy of household registration and ITN allocation
- Championing social and behavioural change to improve ITN distribution outcomes

The agenda, list of participants and presentations from the meeting are available through the [AMP website](#).

## 3. Implementation and coordination staffing

In 2020, the Senior Implementation Technician and AMP Administrative Coordinator continued to provide their vital support to the mission of AMP. In particular, the Senior Implementation Technician represented AMP in different global, regional and country level fora, as well as in the New Nets Project coordination meetings. She also led the ITN/IRS Task Force under the WHO COVID-19 malaria workstream for commodities and supply chain while participating in the WHO COVID-19 workstream focused on malaria technical guidance. In addition, it was the task of the Senior Implementation Technician to support technical assistance deployments under CRSPC funding and provide oversight and quality control for all AMP's TA providers, as well as to all AMP country and global guidance on ITN campaign distributions. The AMP Administrative Coordinator ensured contractual arrangements for all technical assistance deployments under IFRC funding, tracked expenditures and prepared reports to the partnership.

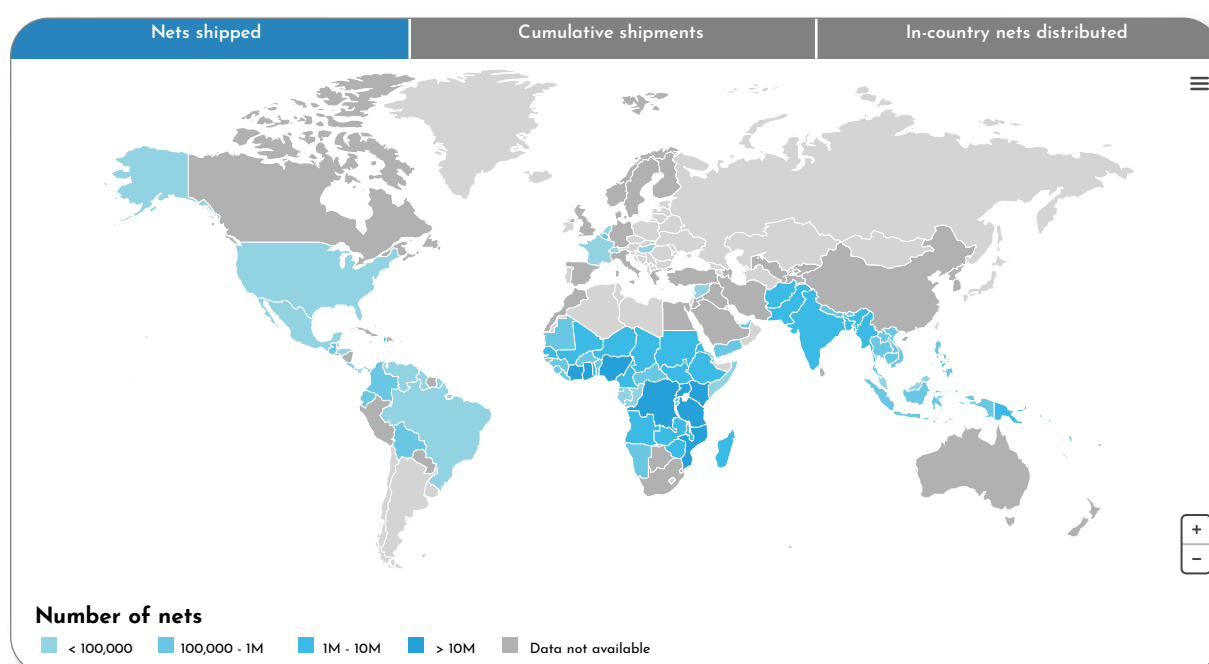
The two staff members continued to champion advocacy efforts with leading public health organizations to develop and refine major policy, technical and operational guidance for ITN scale-up, particularly in line with the COVID-19 context and the flexibilities required to achieve programmatic objectives. While the AMP 2019—2020 Workplan provided for an additional staff member, a Deputy to the AMP Senior Implementation Technician, the position could not be filled due to lack of funding: a consultant was recruited on a temporary basis for this role.

## 4. AMP Net Mapping Project

The [Net Mapping Project](#) surveys every WHO pre-qualified ITN manufacturer each quarter and quantifies the number of nets that have been delivered to each country on a worldwide basis, from 2004 to the present. As such, it provides a solid and reliable base for further calculations on progress toward universal coverage, ITN decay, and the need for replacement of ITNs in households.

The [Net Mapping Project](#) documented that a total of 229,874,897 nets were delivered globally in 2020, of which 209,210,311 nets, or 91 per cent, were delivered in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Since 2004, an astounding total of 2,338,981,046 nets have been delivered in over 140 countries, of which 2,010,479,554 nets, or 86 per cent of the total, were delivered in Sub-Saharan Africa.



## 5. AMP conference call line and website

In 2020, many of the weekly AMP partnerships calls were organized to be more theme-specific, including on COVID-19, which attracted their highest attendance to date.

The [AMP website](#) is regularly maintained, is available [in French](#) and was rapidly updated to

include a specific section for COVID-19 resources. In the course of 2020, the AMP website was visited by 5,618 users, accounting for a total of 16,777 pageviews. In addition, an estimated six per cent of users used the French version of the website.



## 6. AMP Core Group meeting

AMP's operational structure includes a Core Group of key partners who guide and monitor progress against AMP's workplan. The AMP Core Group includes Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Directorate of Malaria Control within the Pakistan Ministry of National Health Services, DMG Global Health LLC, the Global Fund, IFRC, International Public Health Advisors, Milliner Global Associates, Results in Health, Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM-Global) Rotary Action Group, the United Nations Foundation, PMI, WHO, and World Vision, as well as some independent participants.

A virtual Core Group Meeting was held from 18 to 20 August 2020, to review key functional issues such as the structure and working modalities of AMP, training plans, resource mobilization and technical assistance. Following the Core Group meeting, a revision of the AMP Core Group membership criteria was initiated. It was also decided that quarterly AMP Core Group meetings would be organized, particularly given the need to prepare for AMP's first-ever virtual annual partners' meeting in March 2021.

## 7. AMP tools

During 2020, AMP has worked on a number of tools and guidance documents as part of its mandate for

country support, described in further detail below.

### a. Development and dissemination of operational recommendations for COVID-19 and ITN distribution

To help keep ITN campaigns on track as the COVID-19 pandemic emerged, AMP rapidly recommended strategy adaptations to the new context. These recommendations were developed in partnership with national malaria programmes, implementing partners and technical and funding partners, thereby reflecting broad expectations for mass campaigns during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Numerous guidelines and documents have been developed in English, translated into French, Spanish and Portuguese and uploaded to the [AMP website](#), in particular:

- [Key guidance for ITN distribution during COVID-19 transmission](#)
- [Planning for safe ITN distribution in the context of COVID-19 transmission](#)
- Guidance and considerations for macroplanning in the COVID-19 context, including on waste management
- Guidance and considerations for microplanning in the COVID-19 context, including for SBC activities
- Considerations for SBC activities, including engagement of community leaders, advocacy and integrating malaria and ITN messages with messages on COVID-19
- Supervision of an ITN mass distribution in the COVID-19 context
- COVID-19 rumour management plans
- Risk assessment and mitigation
- Case studies from Benin, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Madagascar, South Sudan, Togo and Uganda, focused on distributing ITNs through both campaign and continuous distribution channels during the COVID-19 pandemic.



## b. Finalization of recommendations on the use of containers for the transport and storage of ITNs

Directed at countries, donors, implementing partners and stakeholders, the [Recommendations on the use of containers for the transport and storage of ITNs](#) were finalized in 2020. These detail the technical and operational concerns about lengthy storage of ITNs in containers from delivery in country

to their final distribution points. Prolonged exposure to high temperature and/or humidity can threaten the physical integrity and effectiveness of ITNs, and special measures need to be put in place if containers are the only storage option.

## c. Guidelines for process evaluation of mass ITN campaigns

The [General guidelines for process evaluation of a mass insecticide-treated net \(ITN\) distribution campaign](#) were developed as part of the New Nets Project and based on the experiences of various malaria-endemic countries. They provide guidance on carrying out a process evaluation as a systematic assessment of the design, implementation and

results of all or part of an ITN campaign, for learning and/or future decision-making purposes. The guidelines also include considerations on monitoring performance of an ITN campaign, as well as how to carry out a process evaluation of the key activities within an ITN campaign.

# 8. AMP Working Groups

AMP's seven working groups focus on different priority issues raised by national malaria programmes, implementing and technical and

financial partners, as well as by the AMP technical assistance team members, and which are reflected in the activities carried out throughout the year.



## a. Priority issues addressed by AMP's Country Support Working Group

Owing to the onset of COVID-19, in-country technical assistance missions rapidly shifted to distance support. Both AMP TA providers and the in-country malaria teams adapted to the new approach with varying degrees of success. While distance support worked especially well for countries that had received AMP TA in the past, most countries, partners and TA providers would welcome the return to the hybrid in-person and distance-based TA model that was possible previously. During the COVID-19 crisis, AMP recommends that national malaria programmes, TA providers and all implementing partners in countries work closely with national COVID-19 taskforces in the coordination of their mass ITN campaign.

Aside from COVID-19 priorities, the Working Group supported a country exchange from Nigeria to Sierra Leone in January 2020, focusing on a bottom-up microplanning approach, risk assessment and mitigation and social and behaviour change. The Working Group also established a rapid response mechanism for the deployment of technical assistance through the RBM Partnership, including generic terms of reference in English and French, and an increasingly flexible decision-making process. Additional online tools were made available to TA providers, to better obtain and share technical documents and exchange valuable experiences, as well as facilitate more accurate and real time tracking of technical assistance. Finally, AMP presented to the Global Fund country teams and regional managers as part of two workshops organized for improving operations and flexibilities in complex operating environments.

## b. Priority issues addressed by AMP's Innovation and Evaluation Working Group

As noted above, the Recommendations on the use of containers for the transport and storage of ITNs were finalized in the first quarter of 2020. Additionally, a partner survey was carried out at the end of 2020 to identify which organizations are working to support malaria programming, with a focus on internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees and hard-to-reach populations. The Working Group will be leveraging the results to work with partners in 2021 to develop case studies highlighting challenges and best practices.

The Working Group identified priority issues for 2021, taking into account the most pressing needs identified by TA providers through a survey administered in advance of the AMP Core Group meeting. Five key issues were identified:

- i. Macro quantification of number of ITNs needed for campaign distribution
- ii. Strategies for ITN distribution in hard-to-reach areas, and for IDPs and special population groups, particularly in complex operating environments
- iii. Planning and implementation of urban distribution
- iv. Waste management
- v. eHealth technologies

### c. Priority issues addressed by AMP's Net Mapping Project Working Group

The Net Mapping Project continued to grow in scope and information. ITN shipment data was collected from all 13 WHO pre-qualified net manufacturers and the database was updated. The mapping programme continued to be refined to reflect data by type of ITN, showing shipments of standard nets, pyrethroid-PBO nets and new dual active ingredient nets by country. In-country

distribution data for Chad, Ghana, Madagascar, Nigeria and Tanzania was added to the net mapping database in the course of the year. Work with the graphic developer continued to maintain and improve the mapping software. Finally, the Working Group prepared and distributed quarterly reports on the ITN shipment data.

### d. Priority issues addressed by AMP's Toolkit & Training Working Group

Recognizing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on malaria operations, partners were swiftly mobilized to align on operational guidance for COVID-19 and ITN distribution. A series of key messages was released in March 2020, while

detailed considerations for national malaria programmes were disseminated in April 2020, and a variety of other technical guidance documents were produced and shared, as noted above.

### e. Priority issues addressed by AMP's Resource Mobilisation Working Group

AMP's two-year workplan and budget for 2019—2020 was disseminated to its partners to encourage contributions to cover the Partnership's core costs and planned activities.

The Working Group successfully developed a three-year, USD three million proposal to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation entitled: "Catalytic investment to improve operational efficiency of ITN campaigns", focused on the promotion of high-quality, high-impact, efficient distribution of ITNs to increase access to nets by populations in malaria-endemic countries. The grant was signed in the third quarter of 2020, a notable recognition of AMP's leading role in providing technical expertise and building capacity to improve mass ITN campaigns. It includes the seven following workstreams:

- i. Review and recommend the best approaches for ITN macro quantification
- ii. Identify effective ways to assess quality of household registration

- iii. Develop best practices for assessing ITN coverage and use once campaigns are completed
- iv. Establish guidelines on using digital tools for delivering ITNs
- v. Document country experience in distributing new ITN types to address insecticide resistance through multi-product campaigns
- vi. Develop guidelines for sustaining ITN access and use and post-distribution SBC
- vii. Update AMP global recommendations on implementing ITN campaigns during the COVID-19 pandemic

Finally, collaboration advanced with the Innovative Vector Control Consortium (IVCC), as the lead on the consortium supporting the New Nets Project, for funding of an additional AMP staff position for the following two years.

## f. Priority issues addressed by AMP's New Nets Project Working Group

The New Nets Project Working Group was established in the first quarter of 2020. The New Nets Project (NNP) pilot, led by IVCC, is testing the performance of new types of ITNs with different active ingredients in select countries in sub-Saharan Africa and generating data to guide international policy on their use.

As a member of the project consortium, AMP is supporting countries to achieve output 2 of the New Nets Project, which is to implement distributions of dual active ingredient (dual AI) ITNs and disseminate operational learning on effective methods for planning and implementing dual AI ITNs campaigns and multi-product campaigns. Countries will receive technical assistance to operationalize multi-product campaigns involving different ITN types being targeted towards specific districts based on insecticidal resistance data. It is expected that multi-product campaigns will become the norm in malaria control, with the

operational context shifting dramatically from the previous 10—15 years during which most ITN campaigns have distributed a single product type.

Work on the New Nets Project advanced to support Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria and Rwanda with 2020 campaigns and process evaluations, as well as the Ivory Coast, Liberia and Malawi with planning for 2021 campaigns. Technical assistance included review of planning documents, physical ITN inspection, ITN arrival timelines, strategy adaptations for the COVID-19 context and consequent budget adjustments, and process evaluations.

Two key discussions emerged in the last quarter of 2020 and will be carried forward into 2021. These concern immediate hanging of new nets received and management of bedbug infestation during ITN campaign distribution, as well as their implications for programmes, including for social and behaviour change messaging.

## g. Priority issues addressed by AMP's Continuous Distribution Working Group

The Continuous Distribution Working Group was re-established in late 2020 and had its first meeting in December 2020. Following distribution, ITNs undergo physical, chemical and other loss over time and new sleeping spaces are continuously generated through birth, marriage and population movement. Continuous distribution, through routine health services, school- and community-based channels, and through the private sector, is a critical and cost-effective component of maintaining high ITN coverage. Considering this, the Working Group will focus on operational issues during planning and implementation of ITN continuous distribution and identify key strategies for operationalizing learning from continuous distribution pilots and programmes, ultimately strengthening country implementation.

The priority issues for 2021 were identified as follows:

- i. The need for a continuous distribution landscaping workstream
- ii. The development of a continuous distribution tracker
- iii. A review of current routine distribution performance
- iv. Analysis of supply chain/last mile issues for continuous distribution
- v. The generation of information to advocate for adoption and financing of continuous distribution for countries

## 9. The year ahead

During 2021, AMP is looking forward to implementing its first year of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grant to improve operational efficiency of ITN campaigns; to pursuing its knowledge-generating work on the New Nets Project; to recruiting and orienting new staff in

both Geneva and Nairobi to help meet country needs; to rapidly identifying and addressing key emerging operational and strategic priorities through its working groups; and to continuing to build country level capacity through in-country and distance-based engagement.



AMP thanks the following generous partners  
for financing its work in 2020:

**the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation;  
the Global Fund to fight AIDS,  
Tuberculosis and Malaria;  
International Federation of Red Cross  
and Red Crescent Societies;  
Innovative Vector Control Consortium;  
Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM-Global)  
Rotary Action Group;  
Norwegian Red Cross;  
the RBM Partnership to End Malaria,  
US President's Malaria Initiative;  
the United Nations Foundation  
and UNITAID.**



