

ADAPTING SCHOOL-BASED DISTRIBUTION TO THE COVID-19 CONTEXT

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Outline of Presentation

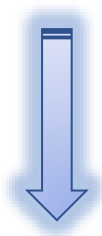
- Introduction to School-Based ITN Distribution
- Background
- Communication of distribution process
- COVID-19 adaptations
- Results
- Lessons learnt/challenges

Introduction

- GHS (NMCP) & development partners are working towards reducing malaria related morbidity and mortality by ensuring all children under five years, pregnant women and subsequently everybody own and sleep under an LLIN every night and all-through the night.
- School-based LLIN distribution is one of the channels adopted by Ghana to sustain universal coverage of ITNs in the country
- Ghana has already conducted 4 annual rounds of school-based distribution since 2013 after the first ITN mass campaign.
 - Conducted in years without mass campaign; 2013, 2016, 2017, 2019
- Nets are usually distributed to pupils in grades 2 and 6

2 COVID-19 cases detected in March 2020

- Schools closed down in March
- Major areas in Ghana were put into Lock down
- 1.3 Million ITNs arrived in April kept in central warehouses
- School distribution put on hold with no clear date in mind



- **August 2020 - Partial re-opening for graduating classes and**
- **JHS 2 pupils back to school to complete the academic year from Oct-Dec 2020**

Adaptations to Distribution Plan-1

- National level planning meeting held to revise implementation plan
 - JHS2 and P6 adopted for 2020 distribution instead of P2& P6 as was the usual plan
 - JHS 2 were to receive directly
 - P6 pupils were asked to come to school to collect their nets and go back
- The net allocation was based on the *number of pupil on the class roll or class register as captured in the Education Management Information System (EMIS)*
- Public and private primary schools were involved
- *Formal period for distribution was Nov 2-27, 2020*

Adaptations to Distribution Plan-2

- Head teachers worked with school management committees and PTAs to inform parents/guardians and pupils of Primary 6 of the distribution exercise
- Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) disseminated information to students and parents through all available channels, including existing WhatsApp groups for parents in the urban areas
- Community information centers in rural areas used to reach out to students and parents
- Religious leaders disseminated information through churches and mosques
- Pupils of JHS served as communication agents to inform pupils of P6 about the distribution and when to pick ITNs

Covid-19 adaptations during implementation

- National level planning meetings were done virtually through zoom
- Training of regional and district GES and GHS officers also conducted virtually
 - trainings done in sessions in 5 days
 - 5 training teams held 2 separate training session per day
 - Each session involved ~50 participants
 - 699 persons trained virtually

Covid-19 adaptations during implementation

- In person trainings for circuit supervisors on the application and monitoring of the distribution process
- COVID-19 protocols observed
- 1,665 trained in-person



Distribution in schools

- Class teachers handed over nets to pupils after sanitizing hands
- Pupils/parents receiving ITNs observed all COVID 19 protocols
- Details of beneficiaries documented on reporting form by school teacher endorsed by Headteacher
- Circuit supervisor entered summary of distribution data on the Net4Schs App



Results From Net4Schs App

4:19 53%

net4schs.org/national/dashboard

Net4Schs

NATIONAL OVERVIEW

A statistical representation of activities performed in all regions

NUMBER OF SCHOOL ENTRIES IN COUNTRY

26,489 OF 26,881

NUMBER OF LLINs RECEIVED IN ALL REGIONS

1,226,716

NUMBER OF PUPILS SUPPLIED WITH LLINs IN ALL REGIONS

1,175,266

NUMBER OF LLINs REMAINING IN ALL REGIONS

51,450

4:20 53%

net4schs.org/national/dashboard

PERCENTAGE COVERAGE OF SCHOOLS IN ALL REGIONS

98.5%

PERCENTAGE COVERAGE OF LLIN DISTRIBUTED IN ALL REGIONS

95.8%

REGIONAL SUMMARY

NAME OF REGION	LLINs RECEIVED	LLINs DISTRIBUTED	ADDITIONAL CS SUPPLIED
AHAFO	27,134	26,669	393
ASHANTI	233,333	221,008	8,683
BONO	51,826	49,911	632
BONO EAST	49,035	48,132	1,550
CENTRAL	143,938	135,394	3,289
EASTERN	131,108	124,895	10,427
GREATER ACCRA	194,959	185,998	5,334
NORTH EAST	2,697	2,648	53
NORTHERN	74,497	72,687	2,202
OTI	30,520	29,969	846
SAVANNA	19,345	19,025	258
UPPER EAST	56,409	52,922	1,000
VOLTA	76,160	73,361	3,237
WESTERN	94,613	91,769	2,275
WESTERN NORTH	41,142	40,878	1,320



Challenges/ lessons learnt

- Internet connectivity challenges prevented some district level participants from joining trainings
 - Affected officers allowed to join in-person trainings in their districts
- Less than 40% of P6 pupils had retrieved their nets by the end of November
 - Period extended to allow for most of the pupils to retrieve their nets **this increased the retrieval rates to 95%**
- Use of electronic application enabled real-time tracking of data and distribution process
 - Officers with difficulties in synchronizing data were followed up and supported

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Acknowledgement



USAID
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U.S. President's Malaria Initiative



Ghana Education
Service (GES)





THANK YOU