ADAPTING SCHOOL-BASED DISTRIBUTION TO THE COVID-19 CONTEXT

• Presented By: Otubea Owusu-Akrofi
Outline of Presentation

- Introduction to School-Based ITN Distribution
- Background
- Communication of distribution process
- COVID-19 adaptions
- 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

**Regional Summary**

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

**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
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
Acknowledgement

U.S. President’s Malaria Initiative

Ghana Education Service (GES)

U.S. President’s Malaria Initiative

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THANK YOU