



AMP TRAINING FOR PLANNING OF MASS AND CONTINUOUS ITN DISTRIBUTION

AMP The Alliance
for Malaria Prevention

Expanding the ownership and use of mosquito nets

The Alliance for Malaria Prevention (AMP) is a partnership of more than 40 entities, including government, business, faith-based and humanitarian organizations. Its main goal is to expand the ownership and use of insecticide-treated nets (ITNs). It works to ensure good quality, efficient ITN distribution to secure high coverage, retention, utilization, care and repair. This is done through regular updating of operational guidance and organization of training workshops aimed at strengthening and sharing the skills of National Malaria Control/Elimination Programmes (NMCP/NMEP) and partner organizations' staff in ITN distribution planning. AMP also provides in-country and distance support to NMCP/NMEP and implementing partners.

In the last years, over 30 countries have participated in AMP-organized workshops aimed at strengthening the leadership and management skills of NMCP/NMEP and partner organizations' staff in planning, logistics, social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) and monitoring and evaluation (M&E), with a focus on mass ITN distribution campaigns and continuous distribution (CD). The ITN trainings provide a solid foundation for planning and executing mass and continuous ITN distribution campaigns. The trainings are designed as a training-of-trainers with exchange of experience and peer-to-peer discussions which help to ensure that knowledge is taken back and transferred to other staff in participants' own countries.

AMP 2018 TRAININGS

In 2018, AMP organized and facilitated two regional trainings on the planning and implementation of mass and continuous ITN distribution in Nairobi, Kenya. The trainings were supported by VectorWorks, a United States President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) – funded global malaria project, in collaboration with the Roll Back Malaria Partnership to End Malaria (RBM).

The training sessions brought together key malaria prevention players, targeting the NMCP/NMEP personnel – as well as technical, financial and implementation partners – to review guidance and undertake practical exercises related to mass campaigns and continuous ITN distribution. A key focus of the training sessions was to share lessons learned across country programmes for both mass and CD systems, and to highlight operational effectiveness and ways to better coordinate and lead deployment of effective malaria control interventions through improved leadership and management skills.

The training in English, from November 5 – 8, 2018, included 28 participants from Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania and Zanzibar.

The training in French, from November 13 –16, 2018, included 33 participants from Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Republic of Congo and Senegal.



TRAINING OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

1. Review recent ITN campaign and CD experiences, including successes, challenges and recommendations for future activities.
2. Reinforce knowledge, skills, and practices around key technical areas: coordination, CD, macroplanning, logistics, SBCC, microplanning, training, supervision and M&E.
3. Discuss new approaches, updated guidance, emerging issues, including durability monitoring, electronic data collection and management, insecticide resistance and next generation nets, container storage of ITNs and ITN distribution in complex operating environments (COE).
4. Ensure/facilitate an exchange of experiences between countries and create a network of malaria prevention implementers.

Each training covered important topic areas, including an overview of the updated World Health Organization (WHO) ITN technical and operational guidance.

The facilitators used structured activities to draw on the experiences and expertise of the participants, principally focused around developing a mass ITN distribution campaign for a country scenario. Participants worked in groups using their knowledge and experiences to best address planning for the campaign with their group's scenario, while sharing best practices and discussing advantages and disadvantages of certain approaches.

PARTICIPANT TRAINING ASSESSMENTS

On the final day, participants were given an evaluation to assess what they learned during training. Questions on each major session of the week were included.

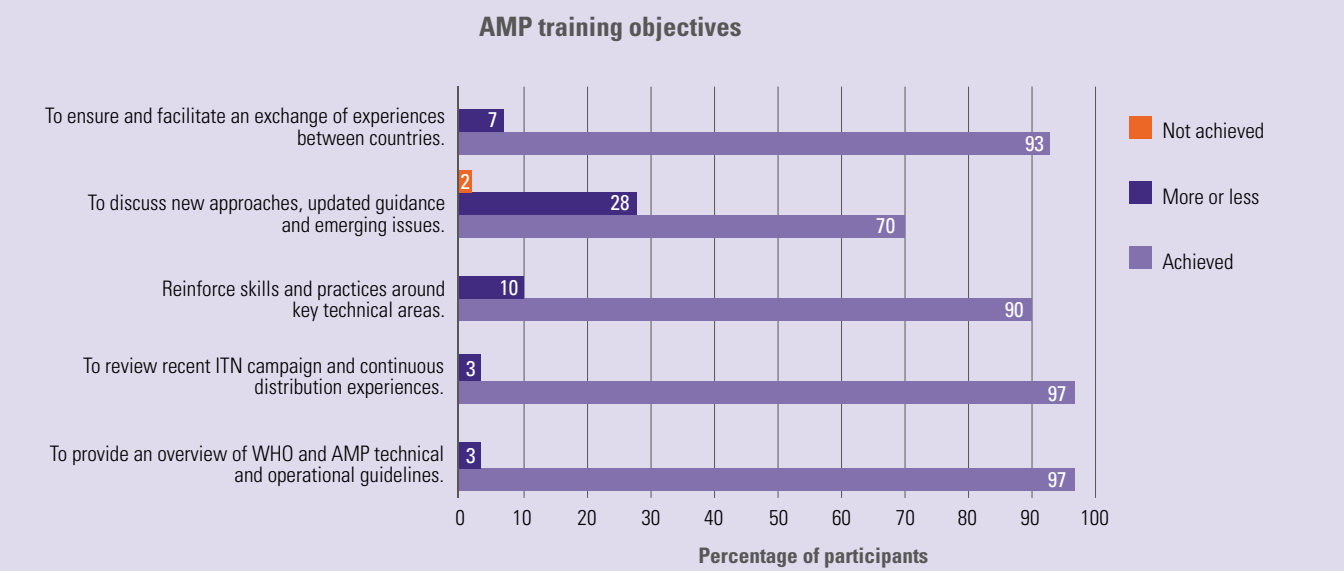
Based on the findings from the assessment, future trainings will place more emphasis on macroplanning, particularly on the importance of developing high-quality, sufficiently detailed documents aligned with a realistic timeline, a fully-costed budget and a well-considered risk assessment and mitigation plan for all technical areas and all phases of campaign activity. Participants recognized the importance of the early planning decisions for achieving successful campaign outcomes.



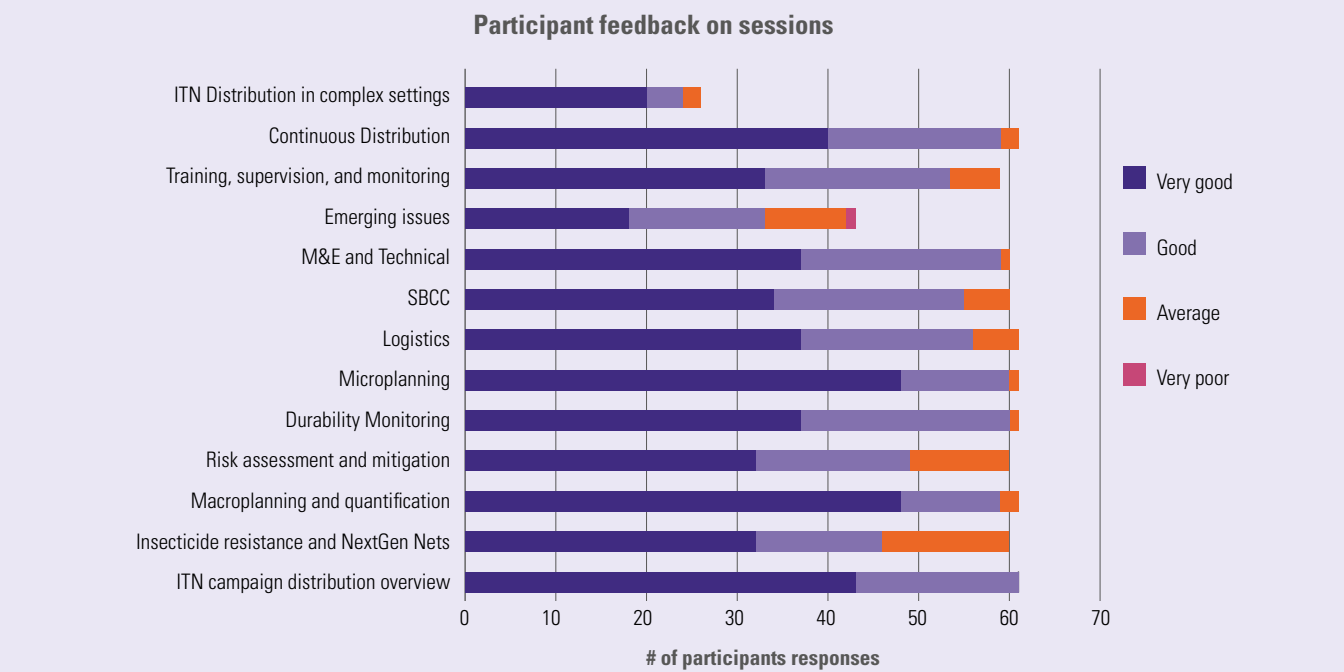
PARTICIPANT TRAINING EVALUATIONS

Participants completed an evaluation of their training experience. When asked if the objectives of the training had been achieved, more or less achieved or not achieved, 89 per cent stated that the objectives had been achieved. Only one objective, “To discuss new approaches, updated guidance and emerging issues” was not rated quite so highly. This is one area that AMP will seek to improve in future trainings.

Participant evaluations of the training objectives



Participants were asked to rate how each session went. The following is a summary breakdown:



**The session on ITN distribution in complex settings has fewer responses because this session was not held during the Francophone training due to time constraints.*

Because participants from the English-speaking sessions had more experience with electronic data collection, the discussion on emerging issues was quite fruitful. With the French sessions, the discussion on emerging issues relied more on facilitator knowledge, as the French-speaking participants had less experience with electronic data.

TRAINING PARTICIPANTS FEEDBACK

"It was great learning from each other."

"SBCC is often sidelined: suggest it is integrated early in planning."

"Data collection: Minimum Data Requirements have been taken on board."

"The support from the facilitation team has been appreciated."

"More opportunities should be created for these meetings and work done on alignment from one country to another."

"The training was educational."

"Logistics and M&E both equally important."

"Repurposing: learned about beneficial repurposing. Making the difference between misuse and repurposing."

"There needs more time to be able to exchange and have more information on other countries."





CONCLUSION

The AMP trainings highlighted successful country experiences to ensure the lessons and shared better practices are used for future campaigns. The majority of the session time was designed for interactive, hands-on ways of contextualizing these best practices for all countries and helping to improve participants' leadership and management skills. AMP used the revised AMP Toolkit and the Continuous Distribution Toolkit as the basis of the content in the technical sessions. As well as providing structure to the technical sessions, NMCP/NMEP and implementing partners were made better aware of the content and resources available in the toolkits. They are both designed to provide guidance to NMCP/NMEPs without the need for external assistance.

Toolkit for mass distribution campaigns to increase coverage and use of long-lasting insecticide-treated nets.
See: <https://allianceformalariaprevention.com/amp-tools/amp-toolkit/>

Toolkit for continuous distribution.
See: <https://continuousdistribution.org/>

AMP CONTACTS

To join the weekly AMP conference call each Wednesday at 10:00 AM Eastern time (16.00 PM CET) please use the following numbers:

Dial in numbers:

USA toll-free: 888-808-6929

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Access code: 3904916

To contact AMP or join an AMP working group please e-mail:
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For further information please go to the AMP website:
<https://allianceformalariaprevention.com>