

AMP The Alliance for Malaria Prevention

Expanding the ownership and use of mosquito nets

Situation report #29 – Liberia

Date of report: 18th May 2021
Dates covered by report: 11th – 18th May 2021
Authors of Sitrep: Jerónimo Zandamela - logistics,
Godwin Aidenagbon - Technical/M&E

Campaign summary table

Target population (2021)	4,931,090 (2018 campaign microplan population projected to 2021 at a growth rate of 2.1 %.)
Scale of campaign	National, covering all 15 counties in Liberia
Total number of nets required	2,739,494
Total number of ITNs ordered.	2,783,264
Number of IG2 (quantity by funder)	All IG 2 nets procured by Global Fund.
Date planned for distribution	May - Jun 2021

Context:

Liberia National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) is planning to organize an insecticide treated net (ITN) mass distribution campaign in 2021. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic resulting in national restrictions being put in place to prevent its transmission, the NMCP is obliged to align the planning for the campaign with the new context and design adapted, safe and innovative approaches to deliver the nets to the end users. In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, Liberia also will be distributing a new net type, Interceptor G2, and it is critical that high quality implementation is assured for maximum coverage with the ITNs.

There have been a series of challenges and delays for completing the documents in the first quarter of 2021 during the TA initial support over the period including

- Lack of final decisions for the in-country supply chain
- Lack of information for effective planning for waste management
- Lack of detailed planning for monitoring and evaluation
- Adjustment to the communication plan to better align to the context of COVID-19

Objectives for the mission:

This is a follow-up from the first quarter where work continued to finalize the macroplanning package submitted to GF in late February and comments received in early March 2021 which required to be addressed quickly towards implementation of activities.

The coming three months will be intensive in order to finalize the data collection materials, logistics supply chain plans, training material, etc. After the initial phase the support will be punctual with the TA providers giving support for key activities such as cleaning and validation of the microplans, participating in the training of trainers, supporting on data management and any decisions required after the household registration has been completed and developing the final campaign reports.

TA update:

- The orientation of HHR teams with their supervisors as well as data managers and national monitors have been completed.
- The campaign household registration exercise commenced in most counties on Saturday the 15th May 2021.
- National monitors and regional coordinators have been deployed to monitor the ongoing household registration activities
- Central JTSC meeting convened to discuss issues with ongoing household registration. Some of the issues are as follows:
 - i. HHR did not commence in the 14 counties on Saturday 15th May as previously communicated by Plan international. From the reports provided by the national monitors, most majority of districts started HHR activities on Monday after overcoming a variety of logistics challenges.
 - ii. SBC issues are not being prioritized during the ongoing HHR exercise. On the third day of HHR, airing of radio spots was yet to commence. Town announcers were just being engaged and would be trained before being deployed to the field.
 - iii. PPE (face masks) are not being used by HHR personnel even if Plan international affirmed they had been procured and distributed.
 - iv. Some districts are also reporting shortage of tools. It was also reported that rural tools were deployed to Montserrado instead of urban tools. It is not clear if Plan international has replaced them with the urban forms as advised by the national monitors.
 - v. The daily data collation process appears to be on a slow start since most districts only started the HHR process on Monday the 17th May 2021. We are informed that data is trickling into the KoBo data base of the campaign.
 - vi. In some counties there are issues between the service providers and CHTs in terms of roles and responsibilities and expectation.
- 26 out of the 43 containers of the last batch already in country, have been released to GSA to start moving them to FLBs and district warehouses.

- The shipping line still intends to hold the last 17 containers till MOH pays the outstanding bill from 2019.
- NMCP has provided to GSA a letter of authorization and guidance to start moving nets from FLBs to district warehouses.
- Priority has been given to districts from southeast region, those being located in the most hard to reach areas of the country.
- Due to time constrains, the Liberia team and GSA have agreed to sending from 18 May 2021, the last batch of containers released from the port, directly to the district warehouse, skipping the FLBs as initially planned.
- All mitigations measures are in place for a smooth reception of nets at the district warehouses by involving the county and district health teams as well as the service providers.
- Training of districts logistics personnel for the remaining districts will be completed on Friday this week.

Challenges:

- Un-resolved issues with microplan consolidation and potential effect quantification for personnel and materials.
- Hold back of the 17 containers by the shipping line may affect the timeline for the delivery of nets to district warehouses.

Next steps:

- Participate in virtual monitoring of ongoing HHR activities
- Provide support for HHR data collection and collation processes.
- Provide support for the logistics training activities.
- Provide support for the transport planning of nets from district warehouses to DPs and PPS.