

# AMP The Alliance for Malaria Prevention

Expanding the ownership and use of mosquito nets

## Situation report # 4: Malawi

**Date of report:** 9 February 2021

**Period report is covering:** 3 to 9 February 2021

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### Campaign summary table

Target population	16,665,561
Scale of campaign	25 districts out of 29 Malawi districts (4 IRS districts excluded)
Total number of ITNs	9,258,645
Breakdown of nets	3,749,406 IG2 nets
	516,677 Royal Guard nets
	4,992,562 PBO nets
Date planned for microplanning	Starting last week of March 2021
Date planned for HHR	June 2021
Date planned for ITN distribution	September 2021

### Context

Malawi National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) is planning an insecticide treated net (ITN) mass distribution campaign in 2021. It will be a multiproduct campaign where PBOs and two types of dual-AI (Interceptor G2 and Royal Guard) nets will be distributed. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in restrictions being put in place to prevent its transmission. It is within this context that the NMCP is working towards a quality implementation with the goal of achieving universal coverage with ITNs while adopting COVID-19 risk mitigation strategies.

MoH is the principal recipient PR of the GF grant with its Programme Implementation Unit (PIU) managing the funds. NMCP will implement the campaign activities including distribution of ITNs using the MoH structures.

### Implementation Model for the 2021 Mass ITNs Distribution Campaign

The 2021 mass ITNs distribution campaign will target 25 districts in Malawi. Excluded from the campaign are Mangochi, Balaka, Nkhotakota and Nkhata Bay districts that will benefit from the indoor residual spraying

program. The total quantity of ITNs to be procured for distributed in the 25 targeted districts as (estimated using projected census data) is 9,258,645. There is no buffer that has been procured since the last census is less than 10 years old.

During the campaign, the cities of Lilongwe, Blantyre, Zomba and Mzuzu will be considered as urban areas while the rest will be considered as rural areas.

The 2021 campaign will employ a **two-phased fixed site distribution strategy** with a door-to-door household registration to determine the numbers of households in every community and the number of people in each of those households followed by fixed site distribution in both rural and urban areas

The campaign will be conducted in three phases, starting with the southern region, followed by central region and finally the northern region. (There will be a week break between each phase)

### 1. **Overall mission objectives**

The TA team is supporting the Malawi team to:

- ✓ Prepare macroplanning documents that are adapted to the COVID-19 context

### 2. **COVID-19 update:**

- Cases rising in the country – over 1000 cases per day
- Prevention measures put in place by Government:
  - Schools have closed
  - Public gathering (indoor and outdoor) < 50
  - Public spaces such as drinking parlours, markets etc have reduced opening hours
- Most people working from home but essential services (such as NMCP) working from their offices in shifts.

### 3. **Status Update**

- The Malawi campaign implementation strategy was not designed following the recommended AMP PoA structure. It combines sections for technical/M&E, SBC and logistics in the same document.
- The AMP TAs are currently reviewing the contents of the document maintaining the structure
- The critical areas in the implementation strategy that AMP TAs are providing guidance on are:
  - Ensuring that the campaign implementation guideline is adapted to the C-19 context.
  - Provide guidance and recommendations on how the break period between household registration and actual distribution can be improved/reduced from 2 months as planned to 1 month
  - Define clear roles and responsibilities to the national task force and district task force team members including the chain of command/reporting lines
  - Strategy for the urban/rural distribution.
  - Set parameters for distribution (numbers of HHs to serve per day in rural and urban)
  - Quantification of campaign tools and materials including human resources
  - Strategy for the management of multiproduct campaigns (which type of nets are going where)
  - Define clear roles and responsibilities for the logistics service provider along the in country supply chain
  - Country policy for reverse logistics and transition of nets
  - Clearly defining SBC implementation processes of the campaign
  - Providing guidance on communication around new nets and bedbugs

- Supporting the process of conducting an SBC assessment that seeks to review the implementation of SBC in the previous campaign in order to deliver an SBC package that will lead to increased LLIN ownership, care and correct use.
- Rumour management plan

#### 4. **Week ahead**

- Finalize review of implementation strategy based on the discussion and consensus achieved during the NTF meeting
- Start reviewing the budget based on agreed parameters for HHR and distribution
- Finalize the TORs for the logistics service provider on warehousing and transport to support the procurement process
- Spell out roles and responsibilities for campaign actors
- Finalize the preliminary position plan by district and per type of nets
- Revise the roadmap
- Start working on the risk mitigation plan
- Start work on macro quantification

#### 5. **Implementation challenges**

- There is concern about suboptimal usage associated with a belief in the communities that LLINs increase the presence of bed bugs. This will require additional SBC efforts to resolve.
- Payment modalities for field activities- ensuring timely payments through banking and mobile platforms.
- Gaps in human resources for monitoring and supervision.
- Lack of community level storage leading to the need to have 1-day distribution only.