

# AMP The Alliance for Malaria Prevention

Expanding the ownership and use of mosquito nets

## Situation report # 6: Malawi

**Date of report:** 23 February 2021

**Period report is covering:** 17 to 23 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, Nkhatakota 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 in the country – over 200 cases per day
- Prevention measures put in place by Government:
  - Schools still 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 technical subcommittee is currently reviewing the implementation guidelines based on the feedback from the AMP TA providers.
- Some of aspects discussed yesterday during the national task force meeting with the TAs are as follows:
  - There are two hard-to-reach communities that are in IRS districts that were not sprayed due to logistical challenges. The team will include them in the campaign and is discussing the source of the nets and strategy for distribution.
  - The break period between household registration and distribution. For the current campaign NMCP wants to reduce from 4 months period of the previous campaign to 2 months in the 2021 campaign. Malawian team is hesitant to reduce further more due to the challenges that they have faced during the previous campaign.
  - NMCP is considering to reduce the copies of HH register to two instead of three to resolve legibility issues. A third copy is no longer necessary as the team does not intent to enter primary data.
  - The difficulties in conducting virtual trainings and meetings. It is only at the national level where there is an existing capacity for virtual meetings.
  - There was concern about following the AMP recommendation of reducing the number of training participants from 50 to 25, as this will increase the number of sessions which will have huge impact on their approved budget. The team is exploring the option of conducting outdoor trainings, suggested during the meeting
  - Ongoing discussion on procedures for campaign staff with COVID-19 symptoms. The workers will be advised to stay away from work and seek treatment. Workers who are absent from campaign work because of illness will not be paid. AMP has recommended that people should not be penalized because of COVID-19 symptoms and not able to work.

- TAs are currently supporting the Malawi team with the update of macro quantification table for the campaign activities and budget
- The risk analysis and mitigation plan (RAMP) is in draft form and is to be shared, discussed and updated with the Malawi team.
- The status of the procurement process of the ITNs is still to be updated by GF
- TORs for the logistics service provider have been updated.
- Logistics service provider is to be involved in the movement of waste nets packaging and used PPE from the distribution sites to the existing operational incinerators at the district level. This is an aspect to be considered during the bidding process for the selection of the service provider.
- It was discussed and agree that the LSP should be part of the planning process to deliver nets to hard-to-reach areas.
- Some of the key recommendations for SBC in the implementation guide include;
  - Developing a budgeted post distribution SBC plan which can be used as a resource mobilization tool. Currently there are no funds allocated for this activity.
  - Running the campaign under the Zero Malawi Starts With Me brand which is being officially launched during this year's World Malaria day (April 25th).
  - Given the COVID-19 context, recommendation for a COVID-19 adapted launch to avoid pulling large crowds of people in one place as currently planned.

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

**The AMP TA mission is ending on Friday.** The tasks that will be undertaken on this final week are:

- Develop the quantification table for the campaign activities
- Provide a risk analysis and mitigation plan (RAMP) template to Malawi prefilled with some of the risks identified by the TAs
- Finalize the TORs for the logistics service provider on warehousing and transport to support the procurement process
- Finalize the preliminary position plan by cluster warehouse and per type of nets
- Update the road map
- Support the SBC subcommittee in developing a protocol for the SBC situation analysis.

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

- Generally, the current strategy creates a lot of human contact and opportunities to transmit COVID-19.
- There is concern about some communities associating LLINs with bedbugs. This will require additional SBC efforts to resolve.
- Waste will be generated by dual-AI nets. The PBO nets do not have individual packaging but the dual-AI are individually packaged.