

AMP The Alliance for Malaria Prevention

Expanding the ownership and use of mosquito nets

Alliance for Malaria Prevention: Situation Report (sitrep)

Country: Malawi

Date of report: 2nd February 2021

Period report is covering: 27th January to 2nd February 2021

Consultants:

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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.

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 almost 3 months later.

The campaign will be conducted in three phases (there will be a week between each phase) starting with the Southern region, followed by Central region and finally the Northern region.

At this time, members of the Malawi coordination teams and authorities are working remotely, and have received the recommendations from the global partnership concerning implementing campaigns during a COVID-19 outbreak. The TA team, while providing remote support to the Malawi NMCP continuously works at reminding the teams to put in place risk mitigation measures to ensure that planning and implementation will not be a C19 super spreader transmission event.

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 < 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 TA team worked exclusively on reviewing the draft of the implementation guideline adapting it to COVID-19 situation and also in response to the issues raised in the previous campaign's report.

- The SBC-SC is planning a situational analysis exercise that will seek to gather information from stakeholders around key issues around SBC in the previous campaign. They have widened their scope to technical and logistics. Advised to concentrate on the current situation and undertake a risk analysis.

4. Week ahead

- AMP review of implementation strategy and discussion with NTF to explain the changes proposed.
- Desk review and begin revisions on macro budget
- Revise the roadmap
- There will be an SBC subcommittee call to discuss the way forward on the planned situational analysis.
- Logistics subcommittee will meet to provide more clarity to the logistics portion

5. Implementation challenges

- The AMP TAs were engaged after the subcommittees had met and their first major meeting was with the national taskforce, the final authority of the campaign. This was not the forum where the TAs could conduct extended discussions and influence big changes in the implementation model that was supposed to be finalized at that meeting.
- The country did not plan for C19 in their GF grant therefore there is a potential funding gap for C19-related IPC materials and PPE.
- The implementation strategy did not mention C19 so there is work to do to update it and insert risk mitigation adaptations.
- In their previous campaigns they had a 4-5 months gap between registration and distribution. This makes the campaign unsuitable for the use of vouchers
- Due to a previous negative experience with vouchers, the team wants to use the registration sheets at the distribution sites and require recipients to sign for the nets received. This may increase the risk of C19 transmission
- The country wants a single day distribution. Not easy when constrained by C19 restrictions of 50 people at a time with physical distancing and particularly if vouchers are not used.
- 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.