

AMP The Alliance for Malaria Prevention

Expanding the ownership and use of mosquito nets

Situation report # 7: Malawi

Date of report: 2nd March 2021

Period report is covering: 24th February to 2nd March 2021

Consultants: Dorothy Onyango – Technical, Terry Muchoki - Communications, and Jeronimo Zandamela – Logistics

Authors of report: Dorothy Onyango, Terry Muchoki, Jeronimo Zandamela

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	Likely April 2021
Date planned for HHR	Likely July given the planned end of MIS activities
Date planned for ITN distribution	Starting 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, Nkhokotota 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 – trending downwards – around 100 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 (TSC) is currently reviewing the implementation guidelines based on the feedback from the AMP TA providers.
- The TSC decided that each household registration team will man a separate distribution point within the distribution sites. This is an attempt to increase the feasibility of a one-day distribution. Increased DPs should also reduce crowding.
- As a result of discussions and recommendations from the AMP TAs, Malawi team is to adopt 2 days distribution in urban areas. Nets are to be sent from the cluster warehouses to the distribution sites on a daily basis.
- The TSC has also decided to pilot a single-phase distribution in two communities, namely, Lupachi and Chauma. These two communities were supposed to be covered by IRS, but were left out due to their hard-to-reach conditions, so the Malawi team wants to include them in the upcoming distribution of nets. The Malawi team has agreed to have a separate working session to plan this single-phase approach to have a common understanding of what it entails and then address logistics, SBC and program challenges for its implementation.
- Malawi logistics subcommittee (LSC) is to share the information on the identified 13 cluster warehouses in order to complete a preposition plan by type of nets, and avoiding mixing the different types of nets during reception.
- The Malawi national task force has already engaged the MOH procurement implementation unit in the process of the selection of the logistics service provider based on the TORs that were developed last week.
- The risk analysis and mitigation plan (RAMP) is in draft form and is to be shared, discussed and updated with the Malawi team.

- The Malaria Indicator Survey is starting on Friday this week. Field teams will be briefed on Thursday after which they will head to the field. It is expected that the exercise will be completed around June/July 2021. The country's position is that MIS should not be tied to any intervention (whether mass campaign or IRS) as this gives the wrong picture on what is happening on the ground therefore it will be implemented just before the campaign.
- The SBC subcommittee (SBCSC) is currently reviewing the implementation guidelines based on the feedback from AMP TA providers. The SBC subcommittee will continue with the review ensuring that COVID-19 context is incorporated into the activities.
- There is a need for further discussions around how health education will be undertaken at the distribution site given that there will be an increase in the number of distribution points for each distribution site. There are ongoing discussions around this, to ensure that the households are served at an efficient and constant rate so that there is proper crowd control and physical distancing is observed at all times.
- The SBCSC has been requested to review the need for undertaking a situational analysis given that there are many studies that have been done between 2018 and 2019 that could provide the same information and the information being sought is from three years ago. Unless the SBCSC can demonstrate its necessity, the funds for this activity should be channelled to post-distribution SBC activities.
- The need to have funds for post distribution SBC has been flagged as critical without which act of distributing nets might not achieve the desired results.
- The SBCSC has also been advised to review its planned activities carefully for COVID-19 risks. Eg having a large public campaign launch
- TAs are currently supporting the Malawi team with the update of macro quantification table for the campaign activities and budget. Draft macro-quantification is complete and can be reviewed by the TSC during the upcoming TAs' hiatus.
- The LSC has been told to speed up their review of the guideline.
- There is a draft timeline in place but it became obsolete today after new information was provided on the scheduled MIS

4. **Week ahead**

- The AMP TA mission ended on Friday 26th February.
- AMP TAs to submit draft of the mission report.

5. **Implementation challenges.**

- Piloting single phase distribution in the two hard-to-reach communities, requires adaptations to the current implementation guide and solid technical, SBC and logistics planning