AMP The Alliance for Malaria Prevention

Expanding the ownership and use of mosquito nets

Situation report #33 - Liberia

Date of report: 15th June 2021

Dates covered by report: $8^{th} - 15^{th}$ June 2021

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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 available	2,783,264
Number of IG2 (quantity by funder)	All IG 2 nets procured by Global Fund.
Date planned for distribution	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:

- Following the completion of HHR data collation and consolidation, ITN caps have been set for Montserrado and the other 14 counties. While the cap for Montserrado was set at maximum of 2 nets per household, the caps for all other counties (rural setting) have been set at maximum of 3 nets per household. The need to set caps was due to the huge ITN requirement which is way out of the ITNs available for distribution. The criteria used for setting the caps was the mean household sizes based on HH registration exercises.
- In order to bridge the gap of ITN requirement for Montserrado, PMI has provided 100,000 ITN out of the gap of about 137,855 for Montserrado. By this development, the cap for Montserrado has been raised to maximum of 3 ITN per household as originally planned.
- The formal Launch of the Liberia 2021 ITN mass campaign took place on Tuesday 15th June 2021. The Launch ceremony was performed by the Honourable Minister for Health Dr Wilhelmina Jallah. Goodwill messages came from partners including WHO, The US Ambassador and the House committee Chairman of Health.
- Following the successful launch of the campaign some Counties commenced distribution activities today 15th June 2021. Margibi County commenced distribution today. Most others are expected to commence distribution of ITNs from tomorrow. In readiness for commencement of distribution activities, most SPs were making frantic efforts to ensure they move the nets from the district warehouses to the DPs early enough to enable start distribution activities.
- Some four counties where ITNs are yet to be delivered completely to the
 district stores will have commencement of training and subsequent
 distribution activities delayed. These counties include Lofa, Gbarpolu, Grand
 Kru and Sinoe. Delivery of ITNs to these counties have been hampered by the
 bad state of roads due to the heavy rains at this time in Liberia.
- Friday 18th is the new deadline provided by GSA to complete deliveries of ITNs to all the remaining districts.

 National monitors have been deployed to counties to provide oversight for campaign activities. National monitors assigned to the 4 counties that are yet to start distribution will provide support for Montserrado until they leave for their assigned counties.

Challenges:

• Implementation issues in Montserrado (Poor plans for ITN logistics and rushing of campaign activities)

Next steps:

- Monitor ITN distribution activities
- Plans for end process assessments
- Monitor transportation of ITNs from district warehouses to HF, DPs and PPS