

Situation report #37 – Liberia

Date of report: 6th July 2021
Dates covered by report: 06th June – 13th July 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:

- ITN distribution is still ongoing in the 6 counties of Montserrado, Sinoe, Maryland, Gbarpolu, Lofa and Grand Kru. For the 9 counties where distribution activities are winding down, JTSC is reviewing the distribution data and providing guidance for next steps in terms of mop up, data analysis, reconciliation, reverse logistics and waste management on a county-by-county basis.
- The KoBo database for the Liberia campaign shows that almost 2.5 Million ITNs have been distributed against the 2.8 Million available ITNs for the Liberia campaign which represents 89% of the total amount of ITNs planned for distribution.
- Due to the rumours associating distribution of ITNs with the COVID-19, a rapid assessment is ongoing to determine the appropriate response plan. The ongoing discussions with partners is to make a bridge from the rapid response plans to the post campaign SBC activities.
- There are ongoing discussions with NMCP to adopt an online questionnaire as a tool to be used to support them and Plan to collect other perspectives than national level for the report and recommendations.

Challenges:

- Delays in decision making for immediate response to the rumours associating the ITNs with COVID-19 which is slowing down the mop up process of redeeming balance of vouchers issued to the HHR against existing stock of nets.

Next steps:

- Complete the SBC plan for immediate response to the rumours arising and post distribution SBC campaign activities.
- Monitor final ITN distribution activities in 6 remaining counties.
- Complete the waste collection plans
- Reconciliation and reverse logistics planning for the ITNs