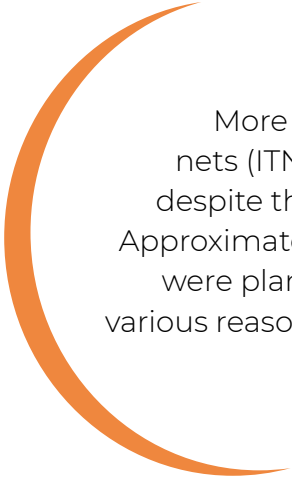





2021

ANNUAL REPORT



More than 170 million insecticide-treated nets (ITNs) were distributed globally in 2021, despite the continuing COVID-19 restrictions. Approximately one-third of the ITNs distributed were planned in 2020 but not distributed for various reasons, many of them COVID-19 related.



Building country capacity to conduct campaigns is fundamental to AMP's mission.”

Alliance for Malaria Prevention
*Evaluating the effectiveness of distance support for mass
insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs) campaigns
in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic
May 2021*

Cover: Registration team, Alto Molocue, Mozambique. © World Vision Mozambique

Back Cover: Family receiving ITNs, Ile, Mozambique. © World Vision Mozambique

Design: René Berzia – Ink Drop



Households should continue to maintain and use their ITNs for as long as possible and follow recommendations for effective care to prolong useful life. Any ITN is better than no ITN.”

Alliance for Malaria Prevention
*Messages on hanging of new types
of insecticide-treated nets (ITNs)*
August 2021



The overall objective of a process evaluation in a mass ITN distribution campaign may be to understand and document the planning and implementation stages of the campaign, in particular differences between the macroplanning and microplanning documents and the implementation of activities, in order to identify successes, challenges and lessons learned.”

Alliance for Malaria Prevention
*General guidelines for process evaluation of a
mass insecticide -treated net distribution campaign*
March 2021

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Background

Established in 2004, the Alliance for Malaria Prevention (AMP) is a global partnership of more than 40 organizations, including government, private sector, faith-based and humanitarian, positioned within the Country/Regional Support Partner Committee (CRSPC) of the RBM Partnership to End Malaria (RBM Partnership). RBM's CRSPC provides a platform to engage the RBM Partnership community in coordinating support to countries and regions as they execute their malaria control and elimination programmes, through activities ranging from country resource mobilization and advocacy to implementation support. The AMP partnership focuses on scaling up efforts to prevent malaria through achieving and sustaining universal access to, and use of, insecticide-treated nets (ITNs), and is made up of partners who both uniquely understand and are affected by this challenge. These life-saving nets have been shown to reduce uncomplicated malaria incidence by 50 per cent and all-cause child mortality by 17 per cent¹, accelerating progress towards the World Health Organization's Global Technical Strategy (GTS) targets.

Through its coordination of partners within the malaria community, AMP advocates for resolution of ITN distribution challenges and resource mobilization in support of members' shared priorities, while ensuring global tracking of ITN mass campaigns. AMP facilitates trainings aimed at strengthening and sharing the skills of national malaria programme and partner organization staff, focusing on ITN campaign planning, logistics, social and behaviour change (SBC), and monitoring and evaluation. AMP also provides operational guidance through a comprehensive toolkit focused on universal coverage ITN campaigns. The extensively consulted AMP toolkit serves as a base document and is complemented by a series of "briefs", bringing the information up to date as more experience is gained by countries undertaking mass ITN distribution in a wide variety of different circumstances. Additional guidance on different themes is developed based on identified needs and iterative learning from country experiences. Finally, based on requests from national malaria programmes, AMP provides globally recognized expert technical assistance through distance and in-country missions to support countries in successfully planning and executing complex ITN distribution campaigns, in line with national malaria programme ITN policies and strategies.

1. Pryce J, Richardson M, Lengeler C. [Insecticide-treated nets for preventing malaria](#). Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2018, Issue 11. Art. No.: CD000363

Overview of 2021 activities

In the course of 2021, as in previous years, AMP played a role in supporting national malaria programmes and their partners to deploy ITN resources effectively, including new ITN types to address insecticide resistance. The continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic threatened campaigns that were due to take place in 2021, but in line with recommendations from WHO² to maintain malaria prevention activities, most planned campaigns went ahead, although with adaptations to fall in line with restrictions mandated by the pandemic. The leadership of national malaria programmes and the flexibility of partners were critical to maintaining the planned ITN distributions and other malaria interventions. WHO was concerned that, with the potential of a severe reduction in both ITN distributions and access to malaria treatment, there could be an estimated additional 46 million malaria episodes and double the number of deaths in sub-Saharan Africa compared with 2018.

Throughout 2021, AMP worked with its global partners, such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund), the World Health Organization (WHO), the RBM Partnership and the US President's Malaria Initiative (US-PMI), to rapidly develop and publish guidance and recommendations for countries to adapt their ITN campaign strategies to the COVID-19 context. This provided countries with technical information to support high-level decisions relating to malaria prevention through ITN distributions. With international travel halted or unpredictable, AMP continued to adapt its approaches to building ITN campaign capacity within national malaria programmes

by establishing virtual platforms for distance-based technical assistance.

Each country needed to modify its strategies and approaches for mass campaigns to align with global and national measures to reduce COVID-19 transmission, including limitations on gatherings to reduce crowding, physical distancing, the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and limiting internal population movement. In practice, this meant that significant ITN campaign modifications and budget revisions, such as shifts from fixed point to door-to-door distribution and procurement and management of waste disposal for PPE, took place across the countries supported by AMP.

Data received by AMP as of mid-January 2022 show that despite the continuation of the pandemic, over 170 million ITNs were successfully distributed in 2021 across more than 20 countries.

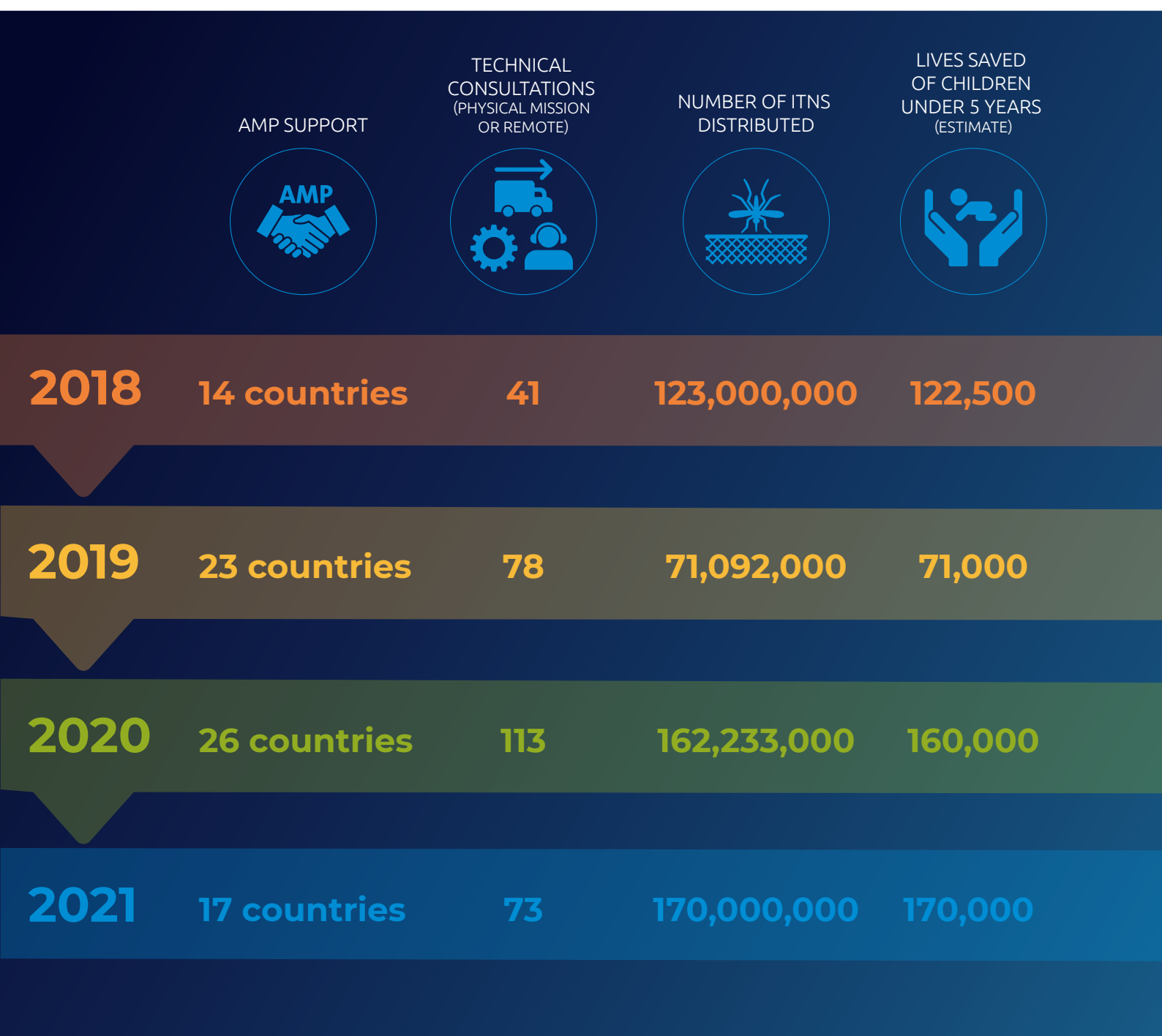
All the while, AMP continued to monitor country progress and address bottlenecks through weekly conference calls, advanced projects and priorities through its working groups, chaired the ITN/Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) Commodities and Supplies Task Force³ calls under WHO's COVID-malaria response, supported the work being undertaken by the New Nets Project⁴ by providing technical assistance to national malaria programmes piloting the distribution of dual active-ingredient (AI) nets, and continued promoting advocacy, resource mobilization and technical exchange between partners and countries in the challenging context of the continuing pandemic.

2. https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-essential_health_services-2020.2

3. Now the Vector Control Access Task Force.

4. <https://unitaid.org/project/the-new-nets-project-in-partnership-with-the-global-fund/#en>

The impact of AMP's support in this year that continued to be unpredictable in its effects is illustrated below.



1. Country support for ITN mass campaign distributions

a. Technical assistance to countries

AMP provides support through technical assistance in the broad areas of planning (including strategy development and adaptation; quantification; budgeting; microplanning; risk assessment and mitigation; data collection); logistics; finance;

implementation; monitoring, evaluation and reporting (including lessons learned); and social and behaviour change. In providing technical assistance, AMP both proactively works with national malaria programmes that request support in determining the needs

Countries receiving technical assistance (TA) and TA type

- Digitalization
- Technical/implementation
- Logistics
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting
(including lessons learned)
- Planning
(including strategy adaptation, quantification, budgeting and microplanning)
- Social and behaviour change (SBC)

Niger
Nigeria
Mali
Burkina Faso
Senegal
Guinea Conakry
Guinea
Liberia
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Democratic Republic of Congo

(type and schedule) for technical assistance and responds to country-submitted requests for AMP technical assistance support. In the course of 2021, AMP identified technical assistance providers (TA providers) based on their competencies, availability and location, who provided technical consultations in support of 17 countries. Of the technical consultations provided to African countries in 2021, almost 85 per cent were conducted by TA providers based in Africa. This reflects AMP's continuing commitment to mentor and build a cadre of ITN campaign experts based on the African continent.

In 2021, two AMP consultants funded either by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) or the IFRC were contracted to provide technical assistance to countries and support to technical assistance providers with a particular focus on planning and strategy for COVID-19 adapted campaigns, logistics and social and behaviour change. This flexible consultant support enabled the provision of rapid, short-term support on an as-needed basis, as well as development of operational guidance.



The table below shows the support provided by the two consultants in hours and by timeframe. For some countries, additional support was provided as part of the onboarding of the new staff and TA providers for rapid review of documents and participation in discussions on technical

issues or for review of TA provider work products to ensure alignment with global guidance and provide inputs to planning in a changing COVID-19 context. For other countries, the entire TA was provided through “light-touch” support without a formal request process.

Country	Timeframe – TA provider 1	Hours – TA provider 1	Timeframe – TA provider 2	Hours – TA provider 2
Burkina Faso	August 30 – December 29	35	April 27 – December 31	20
Burundi	May 23 – December 23	58	January 27 – November 18	25
Cameroon	June 1 – December 20	75	June 14 – December 31	19
Central African Republic	July 31 – September 28	3	N/A	N/A
Guinea	November 12 – December 31	20	November 12 – November 15	6
Liberia	May 26 – June 2	3	N/A	N/A
Madagascar	May 30 – September 14	4	N/A	N/A
Malawi	May 18 – December 2	9	N/A	N/A
Nigeria	N/A	N/A	November 22 – December 31	12
Pakistan	June 28 – December 6	85	January 7 – August 18	13
Senegal	October 28 – December 31	18	N/A	N/A

b. Support to AMP technical assistance providers

In 2021, TA team calls continued to be organized every two weeks (90-minute sessions) to discuss different issues and encourage sharing of experiences across team members and countries supported to work towards more standardization in the approaches and work quality of the TA team. The TA team calls include TA providers, representatives from national malaria programmes and other partners, as well as members of the AMP Core Group. These calls have allowed TA providers to adapt to new ways of working, improve distance support skills through sharing best practices, share

their experience and lessons learned, and work with their peers to find solutions to emerging new issues.

Two sessions were organized for discussions around best practices for distance TA, including a presentation to highlight the findings and recommendations from the distance TA evaluation which took place at the end of 2020. The [Evaluation of effectiveness of distance technical support during COVID-19](#) report is available on the AMP website in English and French.

c. Participation in the WHO COVID-19-Malaria Workstream

WHO established a number of workstreams for malaria within its COVID-19 response. AMP was a member of the workstream focusing on malaria technical guidance and chaired the ITN/IRS Commodities and Supplies Task Force. During 2021, the ITN/IRS Task Force biweekly calls continued until the WHO malaria-COVID-19 specific groups were ended in June with a recommendation to mainstream them back into existing structures. The members of the group opted to continue meeting monthly as the Vector Control Access Task Force, maintaining a focus on upstream bottlenecks and including more elements related to market health. The main issues of focus for the group in 2021 were:

- Finalization of the [mask guidance for campaigns](#) and guidance for community-level management of personal protective equipment waste led by WHO.

- Upstream challenges with sea and air freight, availability of containers and PPE, which continued to affect procurement and delivery timelines.
- Potential supply issue of piperonyl butoxide (PBO) to meet increasing demand for PBO ITNs through 2022—2023, which should not be a problem, based on estimates, if forecasting is early and complete
- Application of standards for ITN quality control not aligned to existing WHO pre-qualification guidance leading to blockages for ITN import. Regular meetings were convened with partners, the WHO Global Malaria Programme (GMP) and WHO pre-qualification team to discuss resolution to the issues, including short-term and medium/long-term actions.

d. Support to the New Nets Project

AMP is a partner in the New Nets Project (NNP) consortium which, since 2019, has evaluated nets distributed in pilot projects that have been treated with more than one active ingredient in addition to pyrethroid insecticide. As part of its support to the NNP, AMP provided technical assistance to countries that were piloting the distribution of new dual active ingredient (AI) nets, typically in combination with the distribution of standard and/or PBO ITNs. The distribution of different types of nets within the same campaign (designated a multi-product ITN campaign) comes with several challenges and involves a substantial number of considerations, including those centred around logistics and social and behaviour change. Through technical assistance

provided to countries, as well as campaign implementation by national malaria programmes and their partners, successes, challenges, lessons learned and best practices were identified and documented in case studies, as well as the updated *Planning and operational recommendations for multi-product ITN campaigns* document. Based on concerns about the hanging of new ITN types, AMP worked to gain consensus among technical and implementing partners on SBC recommendations to national malaria programmes and partners and developed the *Messages on hanging of new types of insecticide-treated nets* document. All AMP documents related to multi-product campaigns can be found on the [AMP website](#).

e. Focus on improving ITN campaign efficiency

In 2021, AMP renewed its focus on improving ITN campaign efficiency. Given challenges identified with the transition from paper-based to digital tools, AMP focused on a retrospective review of the experiences, successes, challenges and lessons learned from national malaria programmes and partners that have already transitioned to digital tools and on prospective tracking in countries making the transition to digital tools in their planned ITN campaigns. AMP focused on ensuring presentations to partners highlighting innovative approaches to improve campaign efficiency, including the use of geospatial maps for microplanning in Zambia and the use of community-owned phones for digital data collection in Togo. AMP produced a [landscape analysis of digital tools](#) and a [features table](#) for ease of access to information about commonly used

platforms for national malaria programmes and partners.

Through the ITN Campaign Efficiency Project, AMP provided support to national malaria programmes and partners requesting technical assistance for strengthening monitoring approaches during household registration and post-ITN distribution.

AMP has supported the Global Fund, the national malaria programme and partners in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) with the planning for a pilot project to use activity-based contracts (ABC) at the health zone level to refocus efforts of campaign staff on programmatic outcomes and improve the timeliness of campaign implementation. The first pilot campaign using the ABC approach will take place in Kwilu Province in 2022.

2. Annual Partners' Meeting

The AMP Annual Partners' Meeting took place virtually between 24–26 March 2021 with over 200 participants, including from 30 malaria-endemic countries. Ministries of health and national malaria programmes represented 16 per cent of all participants, while malaria-endemic country participants (including local implementing organizations) represented 51 per cent of all participants, exceeding malaria-endemic country representation in the past three years.

The key themes identified for the AMP Partners' Meeting in 2021 were: (1) COVID-19 lessons learned for ITN distribution, (2) Multi-product campaigns and (3) Addressing equity in vector control.

While there were concerns about the quality of the first virtual meeting of the AMP Partnership, the overall review was positive as reflected in the daily polling that is available on the AMP website⁵. The presentations and meeting recordings in English, French and Portuguese, as well as the agenda and list of participants are available through the [AMP website](#).

At its September 2021 meeting, the AMP Core Group agreed to a virtual meeting format for the 2022 Annual Partners Meeting given the uncertain nature of the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Implementation and coordination staffing

During 2021, the AMP team expanded from a team of two to a team of five with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and the Integrated Vector Control Consortium (IVCC). The expanded team structure is as follows:

- **Manager – Malaria Programmes** – 100 per cent funded by USAID. This position is based in the IFRC Geneva Headquarters.
- **Officer, AMP Coordination** – 50 per cent funded by USAID and 50 per cent funded through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation ITN Campaign Efficiency Project. This position is based in the IFRC Geneva Headquarters.
- **Senior Officer, New Nets Project** – 100 per cent funded by IVCC. This position is based in the IFRC Geneva Headquarters.
- **Malaria Technical Advisor – ITN Campaign Efficiency Project (Senior Officer)** – 100 per cent funded through the BMGF ITN Campaign Efficiency Project. This position is based

in the IFRC Africa Regional Office in Nairobi.

- **Information Systems and M&E Officer – ITN Campaign Efficiency Project** – 100 per cent funded through the BMGF ITN Campaign Efficiency Project. This position is based in the IFRC Africa Regional Office in Nairobi.

These five positions provided their support to the mission of AMP and additional consultants were engaged in specific technical areas to further improve AMP's ability to coordinate activities, meet targets for project-specific deliverables, ensure timely availability of guidance and tools and provide technical assistance to national malaria programmes and partners on the basis of requests.

5. <https://allianceformalariaprevention.com/about/amp-annual-partners-meeting>

4. AMP Net Mapping Project

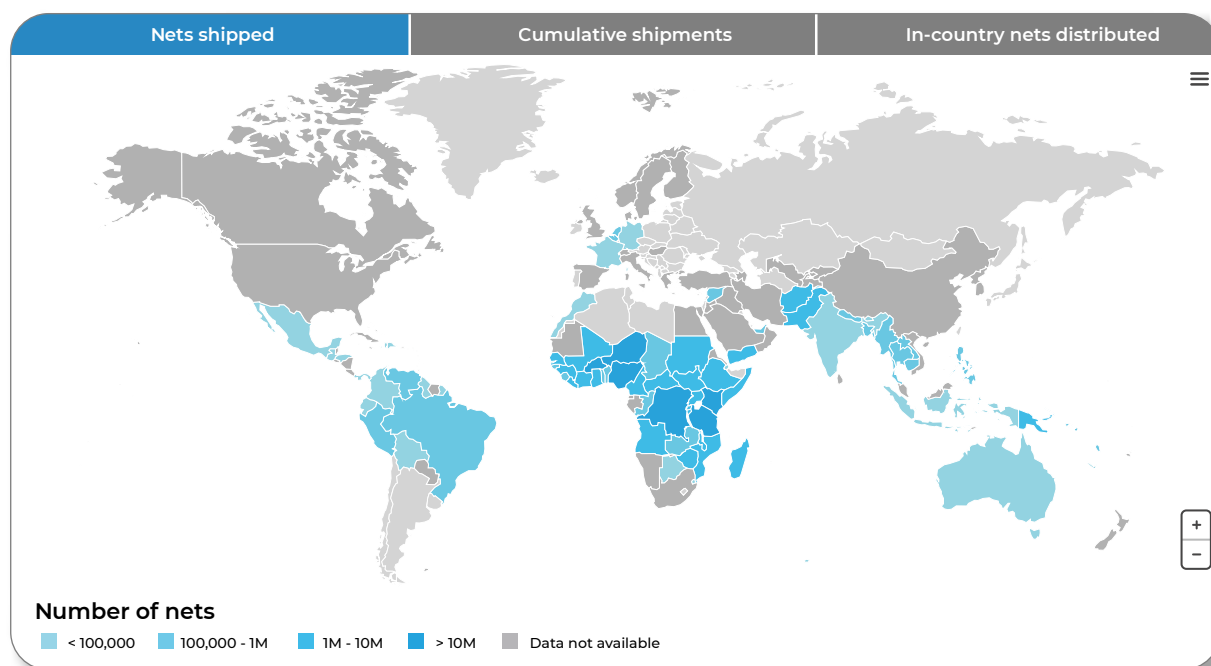
The [Net Mapping Project](#) surveys every WHO pre-qualified ITN manufacturer each quarter and quantifies the number of nets that have been shipped to each country on a worldwide basis, from 2004 to the present. As such, it provides a solid and reliable base for calculations on progress toward universal coverage, ITN decay, and the need and timing for new ITNs to be available in households.

The [Net Mapping Project](#) documented that a total of 219,723,330 nets were shipped globally in 2021, of which 205,582,406 nets, or 94 per cent, were shipped to Sub-Saharan

Africa. Of these, 104,135,277 were standard ITNs, 96,768,722 were PBO and 18,819,331 were dual active ingredient ITNs.

Since 2004, an astounding total of well over two and a half billion nets have been shipped to over 140 countries, of which the majority were shipped to Sub-Saharan Africa.

See the map of the world below with quantities of nets shipped (<https://allianceformalariaprevention.com/working-groups/net-mapping/>).



5. AMP conference call line and website

The AMP weekly conference call takes place once a week and the call reminder and minutes are shared with partners registered to the mailing list. In 2021, the AMP partnership continued to host weekly conference calls with partners to provide updates on technical assistance

and successes, innovations and challenges with mass ITN campaigns. The weekly calls continued to provide opportunities to flag gaps in resources for campaigns, from ITNs and PPE to funding for critical campaign areas such as SBC.

In 2021, multiple AMP weekly calls were dedicated to presentations on a wide range of topics, from research outcomes to lessons learned from national malaria programmes on different aspects of ITN distribution campaigns. Several national malaria programmes gave presentations including Mozambique (coordination of the humanitarian response to Cyclone Idai), Zanzibar (field assessments of the facility and ITN community distribution channels) and Togo (use of community-owned phones for digital data collection during household registration and ITN distribution). Several calls were organized about the use of digital tools to improve the operational efficiency of ITN campaign and continuous distribution. Lastly, a presentation was organized to discuss ethnographic methods for community and private-sector engagement in malaria

elimination in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. The [AMP website](#) is regularly maintained and was updated in 2020 to include a specific section for COVID-19 resources. In the course of 2021, the AMP website was visited by 2,157 users, accounting for a total of 6,490 page views. During 2021, a new page was uploaded for the ITN campaign tracker which provides an update on the global status of ITN mass campaigns and which is linked to the RBM Partnership [malaria dashboards](#). During 2022, it is planned that the AMP website and all resources will be available in French.

The AMP Partnership also maintains the ITN [Continuous Distribution website](#), which includes extensive information for planning and implementing ITN distribution through non-campaign channels, as well as accompanying resources and case studies.

6. AMP Core Group meeting

Partners chairing AMP working groups and agencies funding AMP activities, as well as AMP members with a specific interest in guiding the partnership's work, come together as the [AMP Core Group](#). The AMP Core Group is responsible for reviewing the AMP workplan and providing guidance and support to the AMP staff. In 2021, the AMP Core Group met monthly to ensure sufficient monitoring of the new staff team, the ITN Campaign Efficiency Project, the New Nets Project, technical assistance deployment and to address different bottlenecks faced in achievement of the AMP workplan.

In addition to the monthly meetings, the AMP Core Group organizes a larger meeting twice a year, once near the time of the AMP Annual Partners Meeting and once approximately midway through the year. In 2021, the AMP Core Group met in September. The meeting was focused on updates based on the AMP workplan and presentations were provided to the Core Group around ongoing projects being implemented by AMP, in particular the ITN Campaign Efficiency Project and the New Nets Project. Discussions took place related to the AMP Core Group criteria and updates and plans for the different AMP working groups.

7. AMP tools and resources

During 2021, AMP continued to focus on development of tools and guidance

documents based on iterative learning as part of its mandate for country support.

a. Development and dissemination of operational recommendations for COVID-19 and ITN distribution

To help keep ITN campaigns on track as the COVID-19 pandemic continued, AMP continued to update existing guidance

for strategy adaptations based on iterative learning and in line with WHO and country regulations to keep transmission to a

minimum. These recommendations were developed in partnership with national malaria programmes, implementing partners and technical and funding partners, thereby reflecting broad expectations for mass campaigns during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Numerous guidelines and documents have been developed and are available in English,

French and Portuguese on the [AMP website](#). Two core documents remained in place in 2021 for ITN distribution during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- [Key guidance for ITN distribution during COVID-19 transmission](#)
- [Planning for safe ITN distribution in the context of COVID-19 transmission](#)

To complement these, a large number of documents were developed, translated and uploaded, including:

- **Case studies**

- **Benin:** *Distributing ITNs during the COVID-19 pandemic*
- **Burkina Faso:** *Multi-product mass insecticide treated nets campaign 2019*
- **Burundi:** *The National Integrated Malaria Programme launches new pilot of continuous ITN distribution through community channels to overcome disruptions due to COVID-19 and malaria epidemic risk*
- **Cameroon:** *Mass ITN distribution campaign in the context of insecurity and the COVID-19 pandemic*
- **CAR:** *Mass ITN distribution campaign 2020 in five sub-prefectures during the COVID-19 pandemic*
- **CAR:** *Ensuring ITN access and use in spite of COVID-19, insecurity and health system challenges*
- **Ethiopia:** *Distributing ITNs during the COVID-19 pandemic in Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz and Gambella*
- **The Gambia:** *National malaria control partner partners with communities to maintain access to and use of ITNs during COVID-19*
- **Ghana:** *Adapting school-based ITN distribution to the COVID-19 pandemic*
- **Guinea Bissau:** *Long-lasting insecticide-treated net campaign in 2020*
- **Madagascar:** *Building on longstanding community networks to maintain access to ITNs during the COVID-19 pandemic*
- **Mali:** *Mosquito net distribution campaign during the COVID-19 pandemic*

- **Rwanda:** *Distributing ITNs during the COVID-19 pandemic*
- **South Sudan:** *Distributing ITNs during the COVID-19 pandemic in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State*
- **Togo:** *Distributing ITNs during the COVID-19 pandemic*
- **Uganda:** *Distributing ITNs during the COVID-19 pandemic*

- **SBC**

- *Engagement of community leaders in ITN distribution in the COVID-19 context*
- *Messaging for safe ITN distribution in the COVID-19 context*
- *Co-messaging: integrating malaria and ITN messages with messages on COVID-19*
- *COVID-19 considerations for the development of rumour management plans related to ITN distribution*
- *Social mobilization and community engagement*
- *Pre-testing of SBC messages and materials in the COVID-19 context*
- *Use of social media as a key social and behaviour change channel in the COVID-19 context*
- *Advocacy in ITN campaigns in the COVID-19 context*
- *Standard operating procedures for town criers during an ITN campaign in the COVID-19 context*
- *Standard operating procedures for motorized street announcers during an ITN campaign in the COVID-19 context*

- **Process evaluation guidance and package for implementation including:**
 - Sample online questionnaire
 - *Conducting focus group discussions:* guidance and example questions
 - *Conducting key informant interviews:* guidance and example questions
 - Report template
- **Campaign process evaluation**
 - **Mali:** *Multi-product campaign process evaluation*
 - *Burkina Faso: Multi-product campaign process evaluation*
 - **Nigeria:** *Process evaluation of 2020 ITN campaigns conducted in the context of COVID-19 (qualitative) (published shortly)*
 - **Nigeria:** *Quantitative end process evaluation 2017—2020 selected state campaigns (published shortly)*
- **Macroplanning**
 - *Considerations for macroplanning in the COVID-19 context*
 - *Allocating ITNs in the COVID-19 context*
 - *Risk assessment and mitigation planning for an ITN campaign in the COVID-19 context*
 - *Guidance on managing waste generated during ITN campaign in the COVID-19 context*
- **Microplanning**
 - *Microplanning for a mass ITN distribution campaign in the COVID-19 context*
 - *Microplanning generic template*
 - *Standard operating procedures (SOPs) for completing the microplanning template*
 - *Microplanning for SBC activities in the COVID-19 context*
 - *Microplanning for SBC generic template*
 - *SOPs for completing the microplanning for SBC template*
- **Supervision**
 - *Supervision of an ITN campaign in the COVID-19 context*
 - *SOPs for supervisors of door-to-door registration/distribution teams in the COVID-19 context*
- **Multi-product campaigns**
 - *Planning and operational recommendations for multi-product ITN campaigns*
 - *Messages on hanging of new types of insecticide-treated nets*



8. ITN Campaign Efficiency Project

In 2020, the IFRC/AMP was awarded a three-year grant by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation focused on addressing critical bottlenecks identified by national malaria programmes and their implementing, funding and technical partners that affect ITN campaign efficiency and sustained ITN access. The project focuses on seven priority areas:

- Improved approaches to ITN quantification
- Household registration and quality control
- Cost-effective options for assessing post-distribution ITN coverage and use
- Digital tools for ITN campaign implementation
- Multi-product ITN campaign operations
- Sustaining ITN access and use beyond campaigns
- Adapting to COVID-19 challenges

Work in 2021 across the seven priority areas led to several outputs as shown in the table below.

Output	Description
Choosing tools and methods for assessment of the quality of household registration (HHR) for ITN distribution campaigns	This document includes a decision-making matrix that national malaria programmes and partners can use to select the most appropriate method of sampling to evaluate household registration quality. The document reviews the tools and methodologies (both manual and digital) that have been used and describes other potential tools to assess the quality of HHR based on a context analysis. The documents are available in English, French and Portuguese.
Choosing tools and methods for post-campaign assessment of ITN coverage, access and use	Like the document describing tools and methods for assessing HHR quality, this document reviews the methodologies used for evaluating ITN coverage and use post distribution. The decision-making matrix can be used by national malaria programmes to select the best method for post-campaign evaluation sampling based on a context analysis. The documents are available in English, French and Portuguese.

Output	Description
The use of digital tools to improve the operational efficiency of ITN campaigns	A comprehensive assessment of ITN campaign activity areas and where digital tools can be most useful to address bottlenecks and challenges. The document Annex (Excel) uses a rating system and list of features of specific digital platforms to allow programme staff and donors to quickly grasp the inherent pros and cons of each one, and to assess their suitability for their specific context and data needs. The documents are available in English, French and Spanish.
2020 Survey on digital tools for an ITN mass campaign: Analysis and report	This report from an online survey summarizes responses about experiences of using digital tools and makes recommendations for improvements in future from national malaria programmes and implementing partners that have used digitalization in any form in their ITN campaign. It summarizes responses about plans for the use of digital tools in future campaigns for countries that are planning to change to digital tools. The survey report is available in English and French.
Use of digital tools in Togo (PowerPoint presentation)	The national malaria programme in Togo shared its experience with the mobilization of community phones for data collection during household registration and ITN distribution in its 2020 ITN mass campaign.
Evaluation of effectiveness of distance technical support during COVID-19	Key informant interviews (KII) were conducted to assess the effectiveness of distance TA to ensure timely and operationally sound campaigns, as well as to identify facilitators and barriers and generate recommendations to improve current distance TA approaches. Fourteen countries and 17 TA providers participated in the KII, selected based on experience working with AMP, campaign experience, malaria endemicity and language. The report is available in English and French.

All documents developed through this grant and/or during the AMP weekly partners meeting were presented on the AMP TA team calls.

9. AMP Working Groups

AMP's seven working groups focus on different priority issues raised by national malaria programmes, implementing, technical and financial partners, as well

as by the AMP TA providers, and which are reflected in the workplan and activities carried out in 2021.



a. Priority issues addressed by the Country Support Working Group

In 2021, AMP finalized and populated the template for the [ITN mass campaign tracker](#), which shows planned ITN campaigns by year and, where available, by ITN type and quantity at sub-national levels. The data for the ITN mass campaign tracker are collected from national malaria programmes and information about campaign status is gathered through national malaria programmes and partners. The tracker is used to identify campaigns that may be at-risk or off track to mobilize partner support to resolve bottlenecks. The ITN mass campaign tracker is a living tool and the website includes a link for viewers to provide feedback

about errors or updates that are needed. The ITN mass campaign tracker is part of the broader efforts of the RBM Partnership to End Malaria to [track campaigns](#), funding and gaps and other critical components in the fight against malaria.

In 2021, most technical assistance continued to be provided by distance. In-country support was provided in Burkina Faso, Burundi and Senegal by TA providers that are nationals of those countries. AMP was able to move towards a more flexible TA model with funding from the ITN Campaign Efficiency Project and the United Nations Foundation,

which allowed for tailored approaches and rapid responses to requests for document review, participation in calls and sharing of documents and tools. This flexible TA model has been recommended by the AMP Core Group for several years and proved instrumental in 2021 for meeting requests that were less time intensive.

The main issues of focus for the Country Support Working Group in 2021 included:

- Urban ITN distribution, including participation in the WHO urban malaria consultation with a specific focus on vector control and multi-sector approaches (with the Innovation and Evaluation Working Group)
- Microplanning, including review of the use of geospatial maps for immunization campaigns, participation in the digital microplanning handbook development led by WHO and dissemination of the [digital microplanning experience from Zambia](#) to national malaria programmes, TA providers and partners
- Market health for vector control, including supporting work on the [Market landscape for PBO-treated](#)

[bed nets](#) and [short-term forecasting for malaria commodities](#) (focused on ITNs) led by the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI)

- Digital tools, including collection of information for a retrospective review of countries that have transitioned from paper-based to digital tools and for prospective tracking of countries that are planning to transition for 2022 and 2023 ITN campaigns, as well as development of a decision-making matrix for digital tools and provision of technical support based on requests
- Monitoring of campaign activities, with a focus on defining cost-effective approaches for data collection and on use of data for decision-making to improve campaign quality and outcomes

Many of these issues will remain priorities in 2022 as AMP focuses on improving the effectiveness and efficiency of ITN campaign planning and implementation. In 2022, the Country Support Working Group will support efforts and advocacy to improve sustained access to ITNs through non-campaign channels.

b. Priority issues addressed by the Innovation and Evaluation Working Group (IEWG)

During the reporting period, the IEWG presented the outcomes of a partner survey implemented in collaboration with the United Nations Foundation (UNF) to identify which organizations are working to support malaria programming with a focus on internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees and hard-to-reach populations. The survey will be used in 2022 as a base for identifying partners to develop case studies across malaria interventions that highlight best practices and challenges that national malaria programmes and partners can consider for their own programming.

The IEWG continues to work in close collaboration with AMP staff and [Tropical Health](#) on priority working group issues

that are cross-cutting with deliverables under the ITN Campaign Efficiency Project. For the focus area of digital tools, a country exchange “mission” was organized between the Burkina Faso and Togo national malaria programmes. The focus of the exchange was on the planning and implementation of digital data collection, with a specific interest in the use of community-owned phones rather than procurement of smartphones through tendering, a process which is time-consuming and may cause delays or non-implementation of planned digital data collection. The Togo national malaria programme also presented to a broad group of national malaria programmes and partners from Francophone countries on this innovative approach to digital data collection.

In collaboration with the Multi-Product Working Group (MPWG) the IEWG developed and deployed an online survey to determine the scope and scale of the problem of bedbug infestations affecting ITN uptake or use. Limited responses were received to the survey, which was sent out to national malaria programmes through the RBM secretariat, as well as directly by AMP staff and consultants, to target countries identified through a literature review. While the bedbug issue does not seem to have a widespread effect on ITN distribution in countries based on the survey results, several national malaria programmes and partners have specifically indicated that bedbugs are a concern. For this reason, the focus will shift to providing support based on country requests for the development of SBC strategies and messages, monitoring how implementation goes and developing

case studies with best practices and lessons learned in collaboration with the MPWG.

The IEWG has been co-leading work on cross-cutting topics, including ITN uptake and use (with the MPWG) and packaging and waste management of plastic packaging (with the MPWG and Country Support Working Groups). It has also been working with national malaria programmes on case studies for waste management.

During the September AMP Core Group meeting, members encouraged the IEWG to prioritize discussion within the Working Group around identification of new areas of ITN campaign and continuous distribution in/efficiencies, including successes, innovations, gaps and challenges identified by national malaria programmes and partners.

c. Priority issues addressed by the Net Mapping Project Working Group

The Net Mapping Project Working Group collected ITN data from all WHO pre-qualified manufacturers and published the quarterly report on ITNs shipped to countries. The annual report shows that in 2021, a total of 219,723,330 ITNs were shipped

globally, including 205,582,406 ITNs in Sub-Saharan Africa and 14,140,924 ITNs in the rest of the world. Cumulatively, this amounts to 2,558,764,376 ITNs distributed globally since the beginning of the Net Mapping Project in 2004.

d. Priority issues addressed by the Toolkit and Training Working Group

AMP, as part of its core mandate, has worked to ensure that operational considerations and guidance, including options for strategy adaptations in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, are available to national malaria programmes and their partners as part of efforts to keep planned ITN campaigns on track and to maintain implementation quality at a high level. The guidance developed by AMP is important in that it is developed in partnership with national malaria programmes, implementing and funding partners, which ensures that it reflects existing challenges and issues requiring resolution, incorporates iterative

learning from implementation experiences and sets standards for campaign quality.

AMP's guidance since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has strongly focused on strategy options and flexibilities that may be required for mass campaigns across campaign areas. Having operational guidance available that has been agreed upon across partners reduces the review and approval time for proposed adjustments and adaptations for national malaria programmes and funding partners. With the risk of more COVID-19 waves across malaria-endemic countries, in part due to low

COVID-19 vaccination rates, it was important in 2021 for AMP and partners to continue to learn from country-level experiences, both successes and challenges, in an increasingly complex context and support dissemination of recommendations from countries having completed campaigns or continuous distribution to national malaria programmes with planned ITN distributions. All [AMP guidance and case studies for ITN campaign](#)

[and continuous distribution during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) are found on the AMP website.

In addition to the guidance related to COVID-19 adaptations, work continued on non-COVID-19-specific guidance. More information can be found under the sections related to Tools and Guidance and the ITN Campaign Efficiency Project.

e. Priority issues addressed by the Resource Mobilization Working Group

During the September 2021 AMP Core Group meeting, it was decided that the Resource Mobilization Working Group would transition to an ad hoc group that would be activated on a needs basis. The AMP Core Group also agreed that the two priorities for the Resource Mobilization Working Group for the remainder of 2021 and 2022 would be to:

- Work with partners to secure funding for flexible and short-term TA for a more tailored response to requests from national malaria programmes, including for “light-touch” review of documents and materials
- Mobilize funding for a position focused on direct technical support to countries and backstop to AMP TA providers

f. Priority issues addressed by the Multi-Product Working Group

The New Nets Project Working Group rebranded itself to become the Multi-Product Working Group due to the rapid scale up of planned mass campaigns distributing more than one ITN type to respond to challenges with insecticide resistance. It is estimated that almost half of all planned campaigns in 2021 distributed more than one ITN type, with many of the NNP pilot countries distributing three or more different ITN types.

behaviour change technical assistance was provided to the Liberia national malaria programme to respond to a critical issue of rumours associating the new ITNs being distributed with COVID-19, resulting in low uptake of ITNs by households and inappropriate ITN handling during and post distribution at household level.

Key issues for discussion in 2021 included:

The Multi-Product Working Group continued to oversee AMP’s membership within the NNP which saw technical assistance provided to Malawi and Liberia for planned 2021 campaigns, and Burundi and Cameroon for planned 2022 campaigns. Technical assistance included support for the development of macro- and microplans, strategy adaptations for multi-product campaigns and the COVID-19 context, and the revision of budgets to reflect updated strategies and the addition of PPE. Work continued on process evaluations and development of case studies. Social and

- Immediate hanging of newly received new ITN types which led to the development of [Messages on hanging of new types of insecticide-treated nets \(ITNs\)](#)
- Management of bedbug infestation during ITN campaign distribution, including implications for social and behaviour change messaging
- Household level management of ITN packaging waste
- Implications of desynchronized delivery of ITNs of different types on campaign timing and budgets

During 2021, the Multi-Product Working Group disseminated operational learning on effective methods for planning and implementing multi-product campaigns through guidance documents and presentations at the NNP semi-annual and annual meeting, the RBM SBC Working Group and the AMP Partners' Meeting.

At the end of 2021, the [NNP interim evaluation results](#) were made available by PATH and were the focus of a presentation to national malaria programmes, partners and the AMP TA team. The results show great promise for ensuring new technology is available to address growing insecticide resistance in many countries.

g. Priority issues addressed by the Continuous Distribution Working Group (CDWG)

The CDWG held three well attended meetings in 2021:

- A meeting of working group members to identify key issues for discussion and prioritization such as the development of a continuous distribution tracker, as well as a review of the current performance of routine distribution and development of relevant CD case studies.
- A community-based webinar with presentations from the national malaria programmes of Zanzibar, Madagascar and Burundi.
- A meeting to explain three types of continuous distribution assessments with presentations from the national

malaria programmes of Nigeria, Cameroon and Zanzibar.

In addition, a [case study](#) from Ghana related to the COVID19-adapted PMI VectorLink school-based distribution was developed and is available on the AMP website. The PMI VectorLink school-based distribution exemplar was also finalized and is available on the AMP website in [English](#), [French](#) and [Portuguese](#). The CDWG co-chairs made every effort to send out the new materials to national malaria programmes.



10. The year ahead

Priorities for the AMP partnership for 2022 include:

- Improving ITN quantification: working with partners to “fix the denominator” being used for quantification for health campaigns, including ITN mass distribution, to ensure that resources invested to achieve universal access to ITNs are well used
- Improving reach and coverage of ITN mass campaigns: focusing on improving microplanning through available geospatial mapping tools to ensure that all households targeted are reached with ITNs
- Improving operational efficiency of multi-product campaigns: tracking operational issues for multi-product campaigns to identify common challenges and mitigation measures to improve efficiency and use of financial resources
- Supporting the digital transition for ITN campaigns: working with and monitoring progress in countries with a planned transition from paper-based to digital data collection to ensure successful, timely deployment of new platforms to improve efficiency
- Participating in discussions to improve ITN quality and serviceable life: supporting discussions on ITN quality, including on sustainable social and behaviour change for increasing the lifespan of ITNs distributed
- Strengthening monitoring of ITN distribution: improving ITN campaign monitoring approaches, use of data collected for decision-making to improve campaign outcomes and capacity-building of national malaria programme and partner staff
- Advocating for greater investment in continuous distribution: participating in discussions about campaign replacement timelines, promoting more sustainable and less resource intensive channels for sustained ITN access and improved malaria outcomes and moving beyond CD pilots in appropriate countries
- Mobilizing resources to ensure effective and timely TA: working with partners to secure funds for short-term, specific and tailored AMP technical assistance to national malaria programmes and partners on the basis of requests to supplement TA funding for intensive support
- Reimagining integration: supporting discussions with national malaria programmes and partners about potential integration of malaria campaign components with other planned health campaigns (such as geospatial microplans or SBC activities) to ensure effective use of limited resources
- Reaching the hard-to-reach: improving strategies and approaches for reaching IDPs, refugees, marginalized groups and last mile populations, including developing case studies to highlight best practices
- Addressing ITN waste management: focusing on ITNs distributed through all channels to ensure appropriate management of plastic in the environment, including tailoring to context and identification of private sector opportunities

These priority areas for 2022 reflect AMP's discussions with national malaria programmes and partners, as well as technical and financial partners. Addressing these issues will improve campaign and continuous distribution outcomes, ensuring that effective ITNs are available, used and maintained correctly.



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