



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

ITN CARE, REPAIR AND REPURPOSING

Experiences from Zambia

2025 AMP Annual Partners Meeting & Campaign
Digitalization Meeting

9th APRIL 2025

Presenter: Pauline K. Wamulume

Zambian context

- Zambia is malaria endemic. In 2024, the national parasite prevalence by microscopy was 14 percent among children under five years of age (2024 MIS)
- ITN is the primary vector control intervention
- Nationwide mass campaigns every 3 years, last campaign was October 2023 – February 2024
- Largest ever, targeted 21M people with >11.6M nets (1 per 2 people)
- Major partners included the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), Global Fund (GF) and Against Malaria Foundation (AMF)





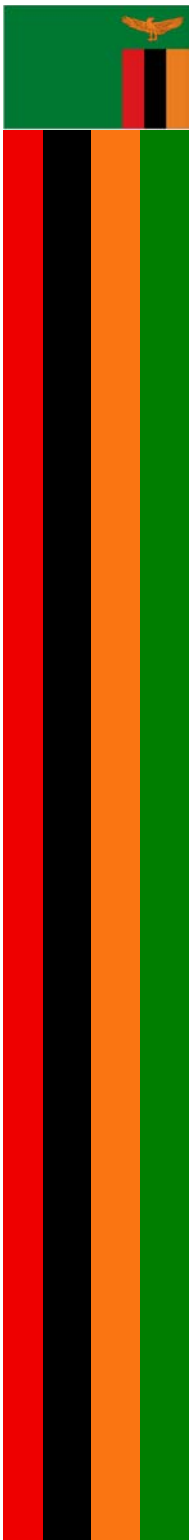
Objectives: 2023 ITN campaign

The goal was to:

- Achieve 100% coverage of the population at risk of malaria who are not being covered by IRS
- Achieve at least 95% utilization of the ITNs in these households.

SBC focused on:

- Ensuring that 100% of beneficiaries receive information on how to use and care for their ITNs throughout the year
- Ensuring that at least 80% of beneficiaries use and care for their nets properly throughout the year from the 64% achieved in 2018 (MIS 2018)



Menti

What does "care for their nets properly" mean?



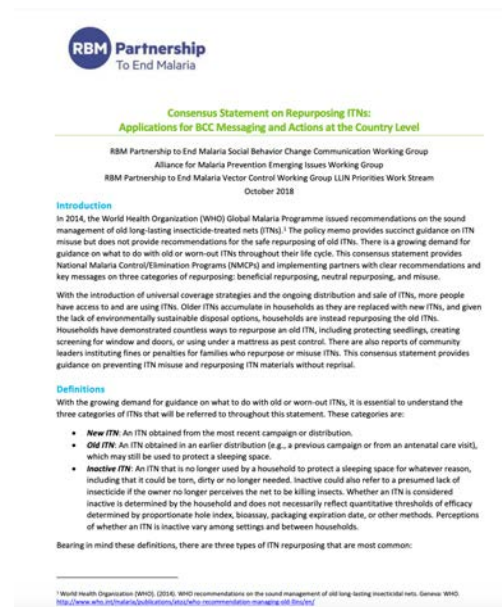
Planning For ITN Care, Repair And Repurposing

Various research findings and data informed the development of SBC Plan of Action for the ITN campaign and activities:

- *Global Fund Assessment of Malaria in pregnancy prevention interventions in Zambia*
- *PMI/Vector Link ITN Misuse Assessment Report – February 2022*
- *Isdell Flowers Cross Border Malaria Initiative Knowledge, attitudes and practices KAP survey report.*
- *Malaria Indicator Survey 2021*

Why Net Care, Repair & Repurposing (1)

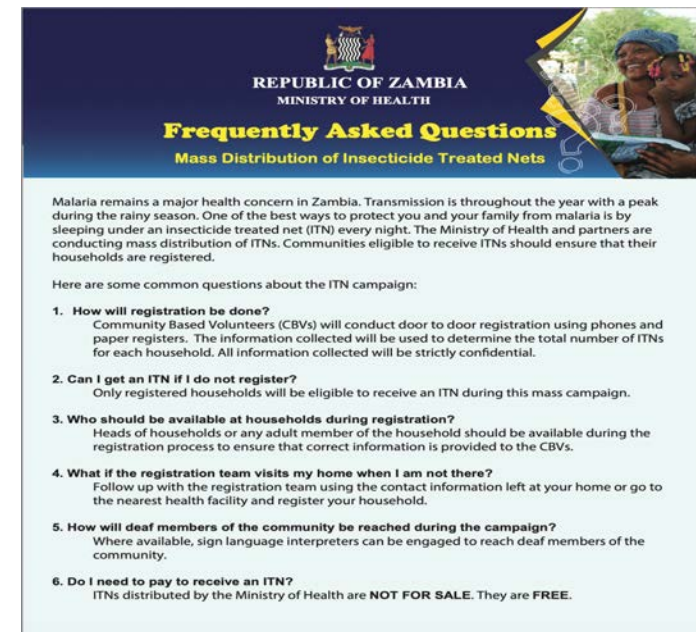
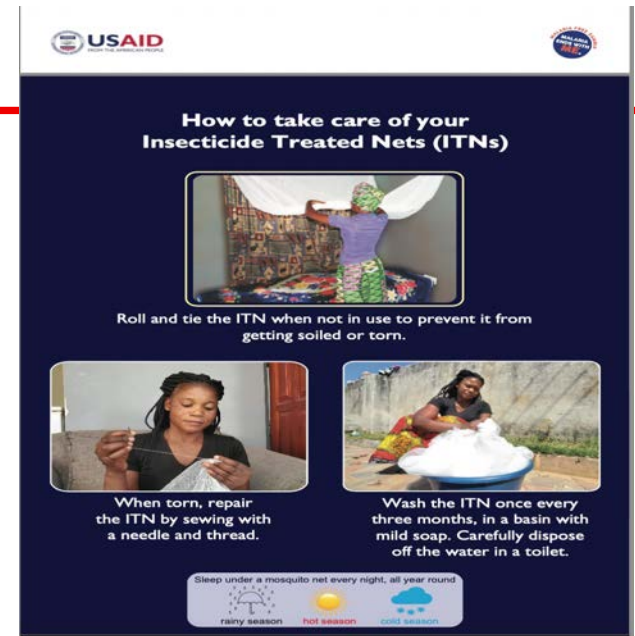
- 2023/24 Durability Study shows “ITNs not lasting 3 years”
- House visits by CBVs revealed “tear and wear of ITNs due to structural and unsuitable conditions”
- Inactive and old nets being disposed inappropriately and **no policy or guidelines on disposal of old ITNs**
- RBM Consensus Statement states “Assuming that households have enough LLINs to sleep under, both beneficial and neutral re-purposing of inactive nets is acceptable”



Why Net Care, Repair & Repurposing (2)

- Exposure to SBC net care messages, positive attitudes towards nets, and positive net care and repair attitudes have been shown to be determinants associated with increased ITN survival.
- „ In Nyimba, recall of SBC net care messages was higher compared to Serenje (54% versus 7%; $p < 0.001$), along with positive attitudes towards nets (Nyimba 79% versus Serenje 61%; $p = 0.027$) and positive net care and repair attitudes (Nyimba 74% versus Serenje 44%; $p = 0.003$).

- **Net Durability Monitoring Study**

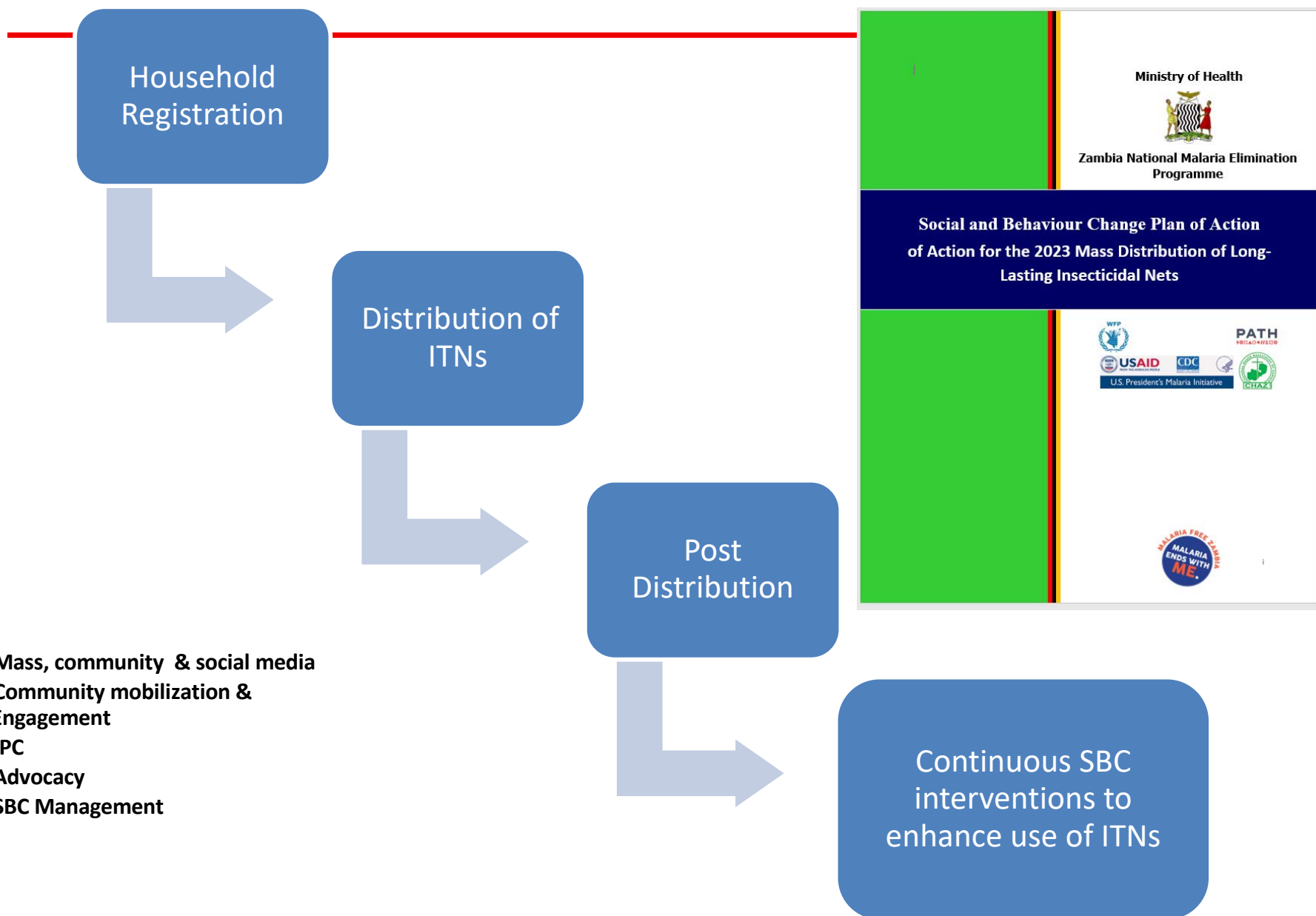




Challenges on Repurposing

- May promote abuse of new nets
- No clear national guidelines on correct disposal of worn-out nets
- Misuse of nets in the name of repurposing
- No clear messages given to communities for fear of misunderstanding

SBC Approach for the Main Campaign



Key Activities

CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES

Materials Design and Development Workshop

Pre-testing of materials

Validation meeting

Production of SBC materials

Provincial Stakeholder mobilization & Engagement

District Stakeholder Engagement & mobilization

Community Stakeholder Engagement & Mobilization

Village meetings, Community Dialogues, Household visits

Mass media (Radio & TV spots, PSAs through PA System)

Community Mobilization & Engagement

National television launch

Provincial launches

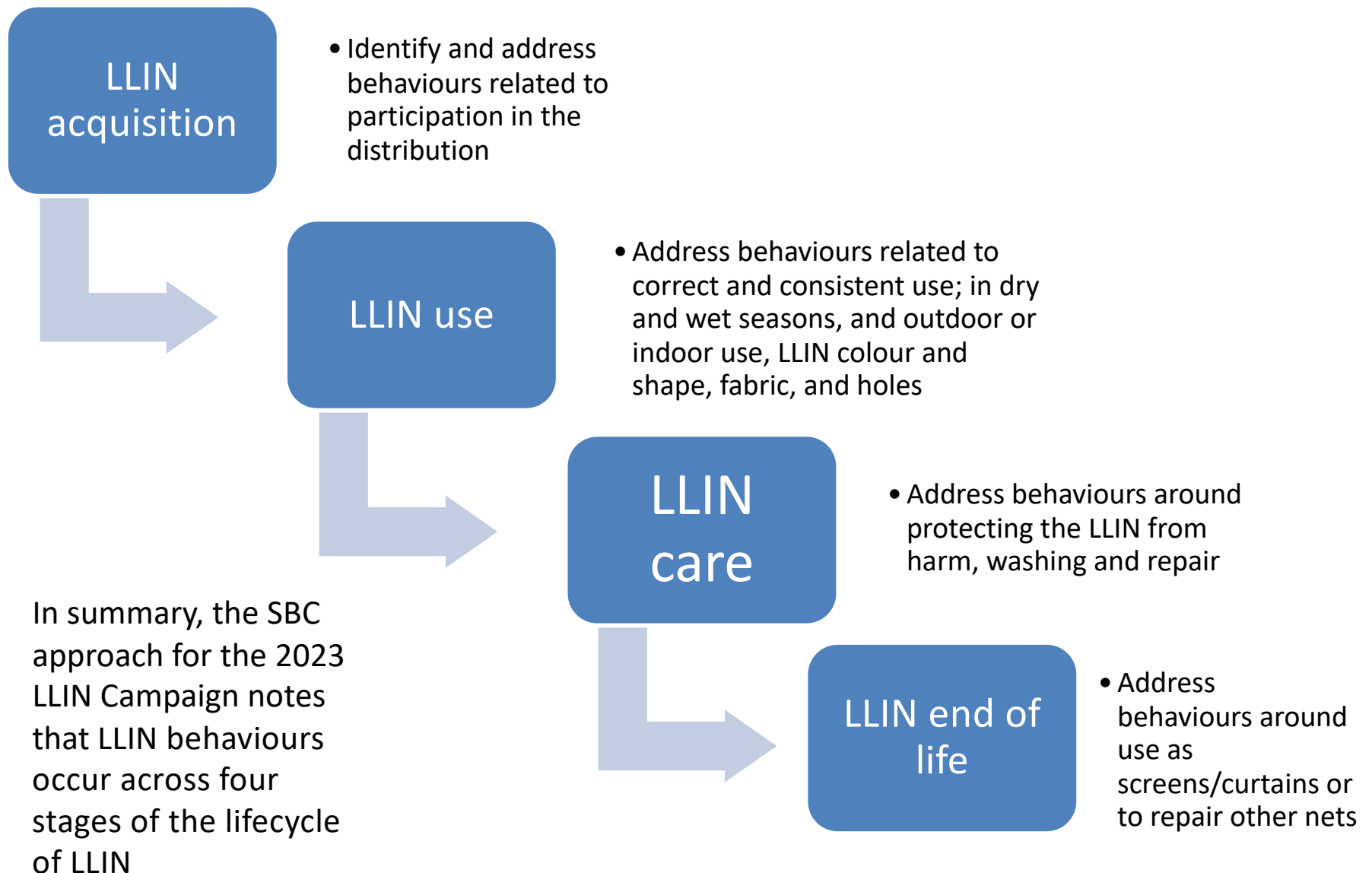
Interpersonal Communication at HF &HH levels

Reporting, monitoring & supervision





Summary Framework for the Mass Campaign SBC Approach





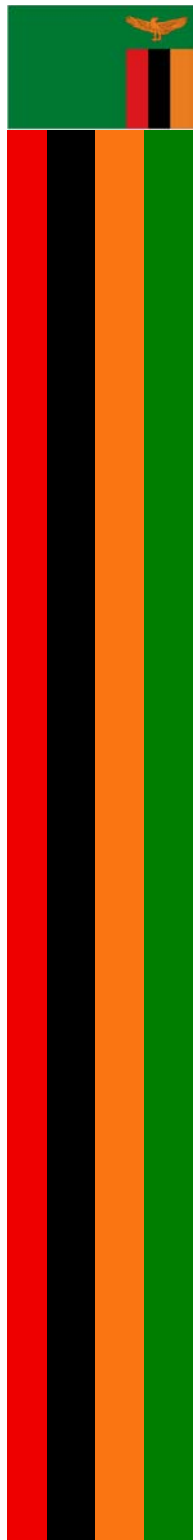
Lessons Learnt (1)

- Involvement of key players (CHEO, SHPOs, EHTs) enhanced optimal supervision of SBC activities and was key to the success of the campaign
- Engagement of political and traditional leaders improved acceptance of the LLINs
- Community interactions with key people revealed that the rumors and suspected rejection of ITNs had been exaggerated - not a single person could confirm seeing any ITN being destroyed.



Lessons Learnt (2)

- Use of Community radio stations as opposed to mainstream radio stations improved community participation in the campaign
- Door-to-door visits by CBVs provided an opportunity for:
 - HH members to be assisted with hanging of LLINs
 - Dissemination of messages on net use, care and repair



MALARIA FREE ZAMBIA
MALARIA
ENDS WITH
ME.