



MINISTRY OF HEALTH ITN CARE, REPAIR AND REPURPOSING Experiences from Zambia

2025 AMP Annual Partners Meeting & Campaign Digitalization Meeting

9th APRIL 2025

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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"





Consensus Statement on Repurposing ITNs: Applications for BCC Messaging and Actions at the Country Level

RBM Partnership to End Malaria Social Behavior Change Communication Working Group Alliance for Malaria Prevention Emerging Issues Working Group RBM Partnership to End Malaria Vector Control Working Group LLIN Priorities Work Stream Detabler 2018

troduction 2014, the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Malaria Progra

awagement of old long-landing intercicle-treated nets (TMN). The policy memo provides succinit publicance on TM simular but dies not provide recommendations for the siler reproprior of old Thm. There is a provide dimension updates of the site of the sile of the siler reprovides their tile cycle. This commany statement provides are resulted in the site of the siler reprovides their tile cycle. This commany statement provides are resulted in the site of the siler reprovides their tile cycle. This commany statement provides are resulted in the site of the siler reprovides the site of the site of the sile cycle. This commany statement provides we result the site of the XIII of the intercal cycle of the site o

have access to and are using tTNs. Other TTNs accumulate in households as they are replaced with new TTNs, and pret the lack of environmentally sustainable acquired performs. The performance of the lack of environmentally sustainable acquired performs and a the lack of environmentally sustainable acquired performs and a the lack of environmentally sustainable acquired as matters as performed and the lack of environmental acquired sustainable acquired sustainable acquired as matters as performed and the lack of environmental sustainable acquired as matters as performed and the lack of environmental sustainable acquired as the lack of envir

Definitions

ith the growing demand for guidance on what to do with old or worn-out ITNs, it is essential to understand the ree categories of ITNs that will be referred to throughout this statement. These categories are:

- New ITN: An ITN obtained from the most recent campaign or distribution.
 Oid ITN: An ITN obtained in an earlier distribution (e.g., a previous campaign or from an antenatal care visit), which may still be used to protect a sleeping space.
- tending in a certain process assigning space. Anadler (TM, Are Uthority in process assigning space) and the space of the

Bearing in mind these definitions, there are three types of ITN repurposing that are most comm

ICUS (MHO), (2014), WHO /

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 with associated increased ITN survival
- " In Nyimba, recall of SBC net care messages was higher compared to Serenje (54% versus 7%; p<0.001), along positive attitudes towards with 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



How to take care of your Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs)



Roll and tie the ITN when not in use to prevent it from getting soiled or torn.





When torn, repai the ITN by sewing with a needle and thread.

Wash the ITN once every three months, in a basin with mild soap. Carefully dispose off the water in a toile



Malaria remains a major health concern in Zambia. Transmission is throughout the year with a peak during the rainy season. One of the best ways to protect you and your family from malaria is by sleeping under an insecticide treated net (ITN) every night. The Ministry of Health and partners are conducting mass distribution of ITNs. Communities eligible to receive ITNs should ensure that their households are registered.

Here are some common questions about the ITN campaign:

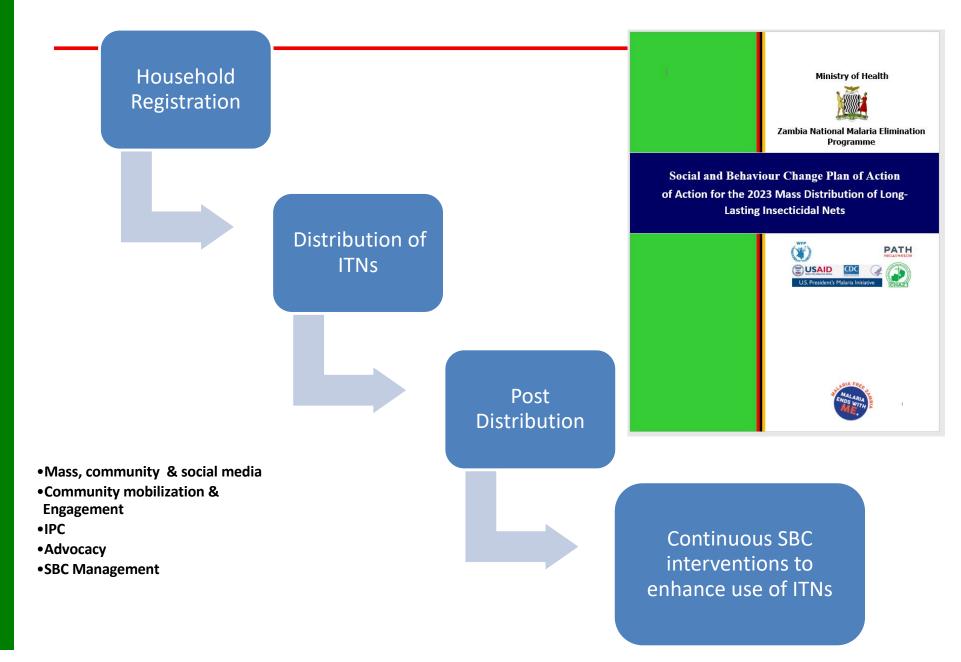
1. How will registration be done? Community Based Volunteers (CBVs) will conduct door to door registration using phones and paper registers. The information collected will be used to determine the total number of ITNs for each household. All information collected will be strictly confidential.

- Can I get an ITN if I do not register? Only registered households will be eligible to receive an ITN during this mass campaign.
- 3. Who should be available at households during registration? Heads of households or any adult member of the household should be available during the registration process to ensure that correct information is provided to the CBVs.
- 4. What if the registration team visits my home when I am not there? Follow up with the registration team using the contact information left at your home or go to the nearest health facility and register your household.
- 5. How will deaf members of the community be reached during the campaign? Where available, sign language interpreters can be engaged to reach deaf members of the community.
- 6. Do I need to pay to receive an ITN? ITNs distributed by the Ministry of Health are NOT FOR SALE. They are FREE.

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

Niobilization

Village meetings, Community Dialogues, Household visits

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

Community Mobilization & Engagement

National television launch

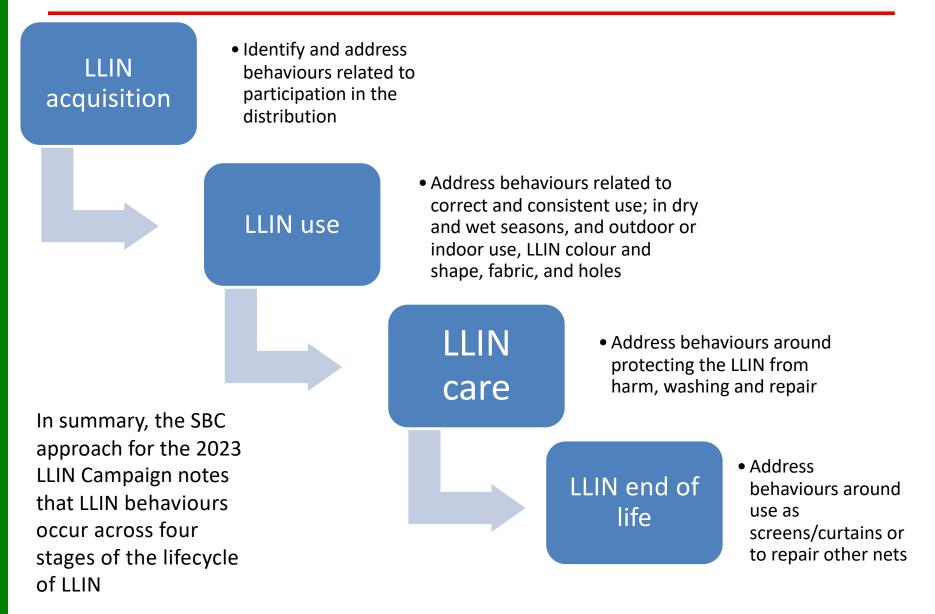
Provincial launches

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

