

World Swim For Malaria Foundation

LLIN Distribution Programme – Detailed Information



Summary

# of LLINS	Country	Location	When	By whom
5,000	Indonesia	Mentawai	Oct–Nov 2006	SurfAid International

Further Information

1. Please describe the specific location & villages that will receive nets and the number to each?

Mentawai Islands, 100 miles off coast of West Sumatra. There are 203 hamlets (dusuns) in Mentawai and SurfAid has operations in 22 (which have already received nets). SurfAid's Malaria Free Mentawai Project aims to provide nets to all of the remaining hamlets. UNICEF is currently planning on providing two nets to each family with a child under five years of age throughout the Mentawai Islands. SurfAid would like to cover the rest of population which will require approximately 25,400 nets.

2. Is this an urban or rural area and how many people live in this specific area?

This is a rural area with both coastal villages and forest jungle settings. Many of the villages on the islands are extremely isolated and difficult to reach – most can only be accessed by boat. This isolation is one of the major contributing factors to the continuing poor health of the island residents and the very limited delivery of health care services. The population that is outside of SurfAid's currently active areas is approximately 63,000

3. Is this a high risk malaria area for this country? If yes, why do you designate it as high?

Yes, designated by Malaria Section of the Indonesian Communicable Disease Department

4. How many reported cases of malaria and malaria deaths were there in this area in 2005? If you do not have statistics please make a qualitative comment.

SurfAid parasite rate baseline data in 2001 showed an average prevalence rate of 18% in two hamlets. Since that time, the rate has decreased drastically (>95%) in these SurfAid target areas, but we can assume that is probably still about this high in non-intervention areas.

Childhood mortality is as high as 322/1000. (UNESCO-Citra Mandiri PRA data. 2001)

5. Is this distribution of nets 'blanket coverage' of an area/village or to a select/vulnerable group? If the latter, please describe this group.

This distribution will be done in coordination with the UNICEF net distribution. UNICEF will be providing two nets to each family with a child less than five years of age. SurfAid would like to cover the rest of the population, which would result in blanket coverage. This blanket coverage is one component of the first phase of the "Malaria Free Mentawai Project" currently being planned with the health department. This is a five year project with the goal to eliminate malaria in the Mentawai Islands. The early evidence from the SurfAid pilot programs shows that a blanket coverage strategy can completely disrupt the Malaria parasite cycle resulting in a "near eradication". This eradication will greatly assist the development of tourism which currently offers one the greatest opportunities for economic development in the Islands..

6. What is the existing level of ITN use in this area? Are there existing bednet distribution programmes in this area?

SurfAid is currently the only organisation distributing insecticide treated nets (ITN). There is basically no use of ITN's outside of SurfAid's target areas. Residents do use sheets around their beds to reduce insects and provide some privacy; however they are not treated with insecticide and are often with holes. Many residents do not use this method because the sheets are too hot.

7. Why was the area/villages chosen for bednet distribution and who made this decision?

The Head of the Malaria Section of the Indonesian Communicable Disease Department and his team visited the Mentawai Islands in February to evaluate SurfAid's current efforts. At that time, we also met with the governor of West Sumatra who expressed interest in implementing a malaria elimination plan for Sumatra. It was decided that the Health Department, UNICEF and SurfAid would coordinate efforts to address needs in the Mentawai Islands.

8. Have you consulted with the National Malaria Programme in your country about this distribution and what was their response?

Yes, please see above (No. 7)

9. Please describe any pre-distribution activity, in particular how the size of the target group and number of nets required will be ascertained?

Population data from the Mentawai Health Department will be used to calculate overall need. Need covered by the UNICEF distribution and nets previously distributed by SurfAid will be deducted from this total.

SurfAid is also planning baseline measurements of malaria prevalence and knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) survey before the nets are distributed. In addition, we are

hoping to conduct some educational workshops with local health volunteers in the importance of use of mosquito nets and how to properly take care of them.

10. Please describe how the bednets will be distributed, by whom, between which dates, whether distribution will be a focussed effort or part of a combined programme and if there will be an information/education component to the distribution?

Nets provided by UNICEF will be distributed in coordination with the national polio immunization campaign (PIN) in September. SurfAid is working with the Mentawai Health Department to coordinate the logistics of the net distribution. SurfAid will coordinate distribution of nets to the rest of the population during the same period.

As mentioned in no. 9 above, SurfAid would like to hold educational workshops with local health volunteers to improve community members' understanding of the importance of net use and how to properly care for the nets.

11. What post-distribution follow-up is planned to assess the level of usage of these nets?

A post-distribution survey will be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the distribution logistics and the actual rate of use of the nets. Ongoing efforts are planned to educate community members about malaria transmission and the importance of using bed nets. Concurrent malaria eradication activities will include the building of the Mentawai Health Departments capacity to improve malaria surveillance and response, use rapid diagnostic test kits and ACT. This will greatly augment the impact of the nets while also providing opportunities to establish a sustainable net replacement system.