

DISTRIBUTION OF 10,000 WORLD SWIM AGAINST MALARIA NETS

Five distributions in Masindi and Buliisa districts,
UGANDA



APRIL 2007



SUMMARY OF THE FIVE DISTRIBUTIONS

District	Sub county	Parish	Number of LLINs distributed
Masindi	Masindi Port	Kaduku	980
		Masindi Port	1,020
Buliisa	Biiso	Biiso	2,579
		Butiaba	3,425
		Kihungya	1,996
TOTAL			10,000

1.0 BACKGROUND

Uganda is striving for rapid scale-up of LLIN coverage through a combination of strategies. Mass free net distribution to target groups through campaigns is the main approach used to quickly raise coverage. Other approaches are used to maintain this coverage by ensuring LLINs remain available; on-going LLIN distribution at ante-natal clinics to pregnant women and support to the growth of the commercial sector are two other approaches supported in Uganda. The Ministry of Health is working parish by parish within Uganda, seeking funding and nets from all sources to incrementally cover the whole country.

Uganda is divided administratively into districts, sub counties and parishes. Malaria Consortium carried out five distributions in Uganda of World Swim Against Malaria nets, these are shown in the table above.

2.0 THE DISTRIBUTION

2.1 *Delivery of LLINs to the district*

The LLINs were delivered to the district stores in either Masindi or Buliisa the week prior to the distribution at parish level.

2.2 *District level planning*

A team of Malaria Consortium trainers from Kampala traveled to the distribution areas prior to distribution to carry out the preparations. These trips included:

- Meeting with the Ministry of Health's Malaria Focal Person for Masindi district and Buliisa district who supported the activities throughout the distribution process
- Checking on the LLINs in the district stores
- Arranging the transport and staff for loading and off-loading LLINs
- Planning with the lower level administrative structures (sub counties and parishes) for the times for training and distribution
- Carrying out mobilization of personnel to be involved from each village by accessing all villages by motorcycle to spread the word about the upcoming sub-county training (see below).

2.3 *Sub-county level trainings*

Two subcounty level training / planning meetings were held, one in Masindi Port to cover the two distributions in Masindi district and one in the Biiso to cover the three distributions taking place in Buliisa district.

The Masindi training for Waibango and Kaduku Parishes was held on the 1st April 2007 (26 people trained).

The Buliisa training for Biiso, Kihungya and Butiaba Parishes was held on the 12th April 2007 (78 people trained).

The training included both sensitization of community leaders and training of the personnel to be involved in distribution itself.

Two people from each village, the community medicine distributors, were trained on the distribution itself. Uganda has a system of community medicine distributors whereby two community members are identified in each village and trained to supply pre-packaged anti-malarias for children under five with fever in their community. These “CMDs” are well respected in the community and are excellent resources to involve in programmes such as this LLIN distribution. The training covered:

- Refresher training on malaria
- The importance of insecticide-treated nets and how to use them
- Key messages for supporting the use of the nets by the communities
- How to register the communities for the distribution of the LLINs
- How to carry out the distribution itself



A training session at Masindi Port sub county headquarters

2.4 Registration and net allocation

Distribution of the LLINs was preceded by a registration process. Each team of 2 CMDs was responsible for registering each potential beneficiary (children under five or pregnant women) in their village, by household, on pre-designed forms. This took place over a 2-3 day period.

The village leadership (in Uganda referred to as the “LC1”) signed off on these forms to confirm their accuracy. These forms were then reviewed at a parish meeting where the total nets available for this parish were allocated within this list. A detailed guideline for the allocation process was followed. This involves first ensuring each household with a potential beneficiary received at least 1 net, if the total allocation of nets was not reached then each household with more than 1 child under five was allocated a 2nd net, with priority to the younger children should the total nets be reached before this was achieved. Names on the list were highlighted as they were confirmed to receive a net so

that at the end of the allocation process the list of names of people to receive nets was then available for the distribution.



CMDs practice filling the forms at Masindi port sub county headquarters

2.5 Distribution

Distribution took place in the 1st week of April in Kaduku and Masindi Port and the 3rd week of April in Biiso, Butiaba, Kihungya.

A distribution point was set up at the parish centre, easily accessible for all the villages in this parish. At the distribution point a CMD from each village was present with their village list (this was necessary as these people would be able to identify that the name on the list was the same person coming to receive a net).

At the distribution point 2 health educators gave talks to the waiting beneficiaries with demonstration nets used to show how the nets should be hung and used.

The distribution point was arranged so that those arriving to collect a net were able to identify the distributor for their village. After confirming the person's name on the list the CMD handed over the net removed from the packaging, this was a measure taken to reduce re-sale of the free LLINs which would have a lower resale value if not still sealed in the packaging.

Each person receiving a net signed the list to confirm they had received and had an ink mark made on their hand.

A total of 10,000 LLINs were distributed to children under five and pregnant women in the five distributions. The numbers distributed to each parish are shown below:

Parish	Number of LLINs distributed
Kaduku	980
Masindi Port	1,020
Biiso	2,579
Butiaba	3,425
Kihungya	1,996



Residents of Waibango parish Masindi Port await the arrival of the nets



Opening the bales Kaduku parish distribution point



A visibly pregnant woman lines up for her net at Kaduku 1 village distribution point

2.6 Data collection

The registration / distribution lists were retained at the distribution point and the following day these were summarized for the whole parish with the numbers distributed reported back to the subcounty, district and national level Ministry of Health (National Malaria Control Programme) to ensure the MoH can monitor and plan for subsequent net distributions in this region.

3.0 PROMOTING PROPER USE – A SUMMARY OF THE APPROACH

A variety of approaches were used to ensure the nets distributed are kept by the beneficiaries and used.

Involvement of local leadership

District, subcounty, parish and village level leadership were all included in the preparations for the distributions. They were informed about the reasons for the LLIN distribution and their support for the activity was confirmed. At the lowest level, that of village leadership, their role was to mobilize the communities to come and collect the nets from the distribution points and to follow up in their communities after the distribution to support proper use of the nets.

Support by the community medicine distributors

Community medicine distributors are a key resource in Uganda and well respected by the communities. We took the opportunity in the meetings where the CMDs were trained on the distribution process to also give them a refresher training on malaria, prevention of malaria and use of LLINs, with the understanding that they would play a role after the distribution to visit the households receiving nets to encourage proper use of the nets by these families.

Demonstrations and health education talks directly to beneficiaries

At the point of distribution demonstration nets were used by community medicine distributors to car

4.0 AKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank everyone involved in the LLIN distribution in Masindi Port and Biiso Sub counties. In particular the community medicine distributors and the district and sub-county leadership who were key to the success of the exercise.

We would especially like to thank the Swimmers Against Malaria who have allowed us to give all families in these five parishes the means to protect their children from malaria.