

Malindi, Kenya - Long Lasting Insecticide Nets (LLINs) distribution.

Description of the area

The nets were distributed in five sub-locations within Malindi Municipal council. Malindi is located on the Indian Ocean 120km North of Mombasa. There are approximately 80,000 people and the net coverage is currently about 40%. About 800 LLINs were targeted in each of the 5 sub-locations (Shella, Barani, Central, Kijiwetanga, and Sabaki). Children under 5 years and pregnant women were mainly targeted because this is the population that is of high risk of malaria infections.

Table 1: Summary of schedule of activities

Date	Activity	Who	Resources
22 nd Jan - 26 th Jan 2007	Community awareness meetings (barazas)	PUMMA, KEMRI/ICIPE malaria programme, Local leaders	Transport, volunteer lunch, public address system
23 rd Jan - 30 th Jan 2007	Identification of bed-net beneficiaries	PUMMA, Community groups, Community leaders, KEMRI/ICIPE Malaria programme, Local leaders	Transport Identification cards, registers, lunch for volunteers
5 th Feb - 15 th Feb 2007	ITN distribution / instruction on use	PUMMA, Community groups, Community leaders, KEMRI/ICIPE Malaria programme, Local leaders	Transport Identification cards, registers, lunch for volunteers
14 th - 15 th Feb 2007	Report	PUMMA, KEMRI/ICIPE malaria programme.	
April 2007	Follow-up on net use	KEMRI/ICIPE malaria programme, PUMMA	Transport, FGD tools, Questionnaires and refreshments.

Pre-distribution activities

A total of 4000 Long Lasting Insecticide Nets (LLINs) were received on 9/12/2006 at Kilifi and were stored at KEMRI/WELLCOME TRUST warehouse. The 4000 LLINs worth US\$ 20,000 were donated by World Swim for Malaria through Biovision Foundation, Switzerland. The nets could not be distributed immediately due to the reason that December is usually a festive season and communities are engaged with social events and there is a lot of movement and preparations for Christmas and New Year. This therefore meant that we had to wait until January 2007. Meetings with PUMMA group and KEMRI/ICIPE

malaria programme were carried out to map out plans for the LLINs distribution. The activities included community mobilization and awareness meetings (barazas), identification of the beneficiaries, distribution exercise and follow-up. The local leaders who included the District commissioner, District Officers, area chief, assistant chiefs and village elders were consulted during the planning meetings. They were grateful for the nets and committed themselves to support the distribution exercise until its completion. Following this, a series of meetings at each sub-location were held. The aim of these meetings was to inform the community about the nets distribution exercise and to provide education to the residence on the importance of using the nets. Most importantly was to introduce the team of PUMMA volunteer members who were to visit the households identifying the bednet beneficiaries. Mosquito control advisors from Municipal Council public health office and the research team from KEMRI/ICIPE malaria programme attended the meetings and emphasized the need for ITN use. The area chief and village elders hosted these meetings. These meetings coincided with the outbreak of the Rift valley fever in the district. This also helped in emphasizing the need for ITNs use.

Messages on net use were communicated through skits and drama before the distribution exercise. This was necessitated by the rumours surrounding the free nets, which had previously been given by the government. There were rumours about “the talking nets” and that the “white nets” were associated with ghosts. Following this, a number of nets were returned to the Ministry of Health and others were burnt. This was the reason for holding community awareness meetings to provide some education on importance of using nets.

Community sensitization and awareness meetings



Baraza at Shella Sub-location presided by Assistant DC



Assistant chief from Central Sub-location addressing the residents



Baraza at Kijiwetanga sub-location



PUMMA chairman addressing residents at Barani

Who carried out the distribution exercise?

The exercise was carried out by PUMMA and facilitated by KEMRI/ICIPE malaria research team. Transport cost and other logistics were facilitated by KEMRI/ICIPE malaria programme. The local leaders helped in mobilizing the community for the activity.

Identification of bed net beneficiary

Criteria for selection

- Households with children under five years old and/or pregnant woman located in Malindi location.
- Economically disadvantaged households
- Households with children under five years and are orphaned and staying with their grandparents

A team of PUMMA volunteers identified the beneficiaries in the villages. They had door-to-door household visitations, which helped them identify the households that deserved the free nets and determined how many nets were required per household. Most importantly was the number of children under five years in the households, number of sleeping spaces for the children and the household level of income. When a household was identified as a beneficiary for the nets, a card was issued (see below). This card was used to organise the distribution exercise so that nets go to target group and the

economically vulnerable groups in the community as identified by PUMMA volunteers. Again, it was to serve as an invitation and reminder for the date and venue of distribution. A register was also generated which contained details such as parents name, village, clinic card number and target beneficiary

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Parent's names (Jina la mzazi) _____

Clinic card No. (Namba ya kadi ya kliniki) : _____

Day/ Date (siku / Tarehe ya kupokea neti): _____

Meeting Venue (Pahali pa Mkutano) : _____

Time (Wakati): 9.00am

Neti kwa: Mama mjamzito Mtoto

zaia mbu sababu malaria

MALINDI MOSQUITO & MALARIA CONTROL ASS. (PUMMA)

Figure 1: A sample card used for registering net beneficiaries



Plate 2: Verifying the cards from the register before issuing the nets

ITNs Distribution exercise

On 5th February 2007, the distribution exercise was launched by the Assistant District Commissioner at Sabaki Primary School within the Sabaki Sub-location. The exercise was attended by all Pumma members, KEMRI/ICIPE research team, Public health officers from the Municipal Council and the Ministry of Health, Chief Malindi location, and Assistant chief of Sabaki sub-location. A total of 750 LLINs were distributed on day 1 to pregnant mothers and children under 5 year (see photos below).



The exercise subsequently kicked off in all other distribution points smoothly and was witnessed by the local leaders - chief and councillors. Each sub -location was targeted to receive 800 nets. The nets were distributed over 5 days with local distribution points being organised to ensure all nets could be distributed efficiently. A total of 3,800 nets were distributed with 5 days (Table 2). PUMMA members are currently delivering the nets to the target beneficiaries that did not receive them at the time of the distributions.

Table 2: Summary of the total number of LLINs distributed at each sub-location of the Malindi Location

Sub - location	Number of target beneficiaries identified	Number of nets issued	Remarks
Sabaki	800	750	There was a burial in the community. Thus 50 beneficiaries did not turn up.
Shella	800	819	Had a number of deserving households who came as gate crashers.
Barani	800	724	Some beneficiaries did not turn up due to distance to the distribution point. Nets Will be delivered to them.
Kijiwetanga	800	786	Some beneficiaries did not turn up. Nets will be delivered directly to them
Central	800	721	A number of identified beneficiaries did not turn up due to distance to the distribution point. Nets Will be delivered to them.
TOTAL	4000	3800	The remaining 200 nets are being distributed to all those who missed.

Post distribution follow-up

We will do monitoring and evaluation to assess the level of net usage post-distribution. Follow-up evaluation will be undertaken to determine awareness of the net distribution, proportion of clients collecting a net and using it, and net coverage. This exercise is scheduled for April 2007.

Instructions on LLINs use



A mosquito scout demonstrating on net use in one of the beneficiaries house



A smile of relieve: "No more mosquito bites"

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