

Final Report

LLINs Distribution Program



Nicaragua/Project Concern International

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Dr. Leonel Arguello
Country Director
Project Concern International/Nicaragua
Del Canal 4, 1/2 Cuadra al Sur
Managua, Nicaragua
505-266-3740
leonel@ibw.com.ni



I. BACKGROUND

On the morning of September 4, 2007, the category 5 Hurricane Felix made landfall at Sandy Bay, on the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua. The affected areas were in the Northern Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN), mainly communities of the southern and northern coastline of the town of Bilwi (municipality of Puerto Cabezas), the communities of Lower Río Coco (municipality of Waspam) and the so-called Mining Triangle (Municipalities of Siuna, Bonanza and Rosita). The departments of Jinotega and Nueva Segovia were also affected by intense rainfall and mudslides.



More than 188,000 people were affected by Hurricane Felix in Nicaragua, and there were an estimated 100 deaths. The United Nations launched a Flash appeal amounting to USD 39 million of which approximately USD 23 million were to cover the most pressing needs. HIGH-PRIORITY NEEDS included food, water and sanitation, shelter, health and emergency logistics.

Project Concern International (PCI), a US private voluntary organization (PVO) based in San Diego, California, with more than 50 years in operation and 16 years working in Nicaragua, launched an emergency response effort with support from the socially responsible corporation, Norwood Resources Inc., to recover water and sanitation infrastructure and attend to basic health issues in Sahsa - Tasba-pri (located in the municipality of Rosita), one of the most remote and underserved areas in the North Atlantic Autonomous Regions (RAAN), and inhabited mainly by indigenous Miskito populations.

Throughout the implementation of its emergency response effort, PCI was alerted by the Ministry of Health and Civil Defense authorities about the danger of malaria outbreaks, given the emergency conditions that left thousands of families without shelter and in flooded areas.

In response to this situation PCI requested the support of the Against Malaria Foundation (AMF) to distribute long lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) among affected families in the Sahsa - Tasba-pri area. AMF responded promptly to PCI's request with the approval of a 3,500 nets for distribution in the affected areas.

Shipping and Importation Delays

LLINs approved by AMF to PCI were located in Ecuador and had to be shipped to Nicaragua via sea cargo. The shipping of the LLIN's took several weeks due to documentation and processing delays at the port of origin which caused the shipment to arrive in Nicaragua until December 12th, 2007, entering Nicaraguan customs' warehouse on December 18th, awaiting the importation process to take effect.

Once in Nicaragua, the importation process also suffered a delay given the fact that the Governmental institutions in charge of issuing approvals and certification for importation of LLINs were on holiday vacations. This situation did not allow PCI to receive the LLINs until January 16th, 2008.

As a result of this prolonged delay, the local delegation of the Ministry of Health in RAAN requested other agencies, providing nets, to cover the area of Tasba-pri where conditions were deemed severe; and requested PCI to focus its LLIN distribution program to communities of the municipality of Rosita once the nets were received. The process for reassigning beneficiary communities, coupled with civil unrest and protests by indigenous populations demanding support by the central government, caused additional delays for the start of the distribution process.

II. DISTRIBUTION ACTIVITIES



For the distribution of AMF donated LLINs and to avoid duplicate distribution, PCI coordinated with local Ministry of Health (MOH) authorities to determine beneficiary communities and signed an agreement with the said Ministry establishing a joint implementation of distribution activities. PCI took care of the transportation and logistics and the MOH was responsible for handing out the LLINs, and providing training and follow up to beneficiaries.

According to the MOH, the difference in the number of families that were initially planned for the distribution changed due to the migration of families to other areas of the country given the emergency conditions in the area. In response, PCI and the MOH conducted activities to reassess the number of families in the most remote communities during the distribution process. MOH technical staff, together with PCI's field staff, officially began distribution activities on February 25, 2008, and completed them on April 12th, 2008. A total of 3,403 LLINs were distributed in the assigned beneficiary communities. Ninety-seven 97 LLINs were provided to local NGO's for protection for their staff working and living in the area to conduct emergency response work.

Beneficiary Communities

Four Distribution points were established, at the communities of Ujumbila, Las Breñas, Wasminona and Okowas to provide LLIN's in a total of 23 communities, including health posts and local NGO staff working to serve the local communities.



By the end of the distribution process, PCI and the MOH, had distributed a total of 3,500 LLIN's to 1,590 households, benefiting a total of 7,828 people in 23 local

communities, as well as 151 health personnel at the health posts/centers and NGO staff working to provide basic services to the communities affected by Hurricane Felix.

Nº	Communities	Number of Houses	Number of inhabitants	Number of LLINs
1	Las Breñas	170	771	370
2	El Pollo	66	297	116
3	Bocana de greyton	31	180	63
4	Waspado Kukalaya	46	205	86
5	Waspado Central	60	286	117
6	Dos boca Rarawas	63	368	136
7	Suclintigny	38	243	104
8	Ujumbila	155	684	409
9	Danto I	38	187	76
10	Danto II	122	536	222
11	Yakalwas I	35	136	58
12	Yakalwas II	41	188	77
13	Yakalwas III	58	263	104
14	Layasiksa	45	200	85
15	Wasminona	60	341	149
16	Kamawas	62	317	127
17	Buena Esperanza I	52	291	113
18	Buena Esperanza II	48	236	94
19	Okowas	74	356	147
20	Unawasito	78	468	183
21	El Black	198	1007	406
22	Arenalaso	17	125	49

Nº	Communities	Number of Houses	Number of inhabitants	Number of LLINs
23	Sansanwas Abajo	33	143	58
	C/salud RPM	0	0	36
	P/Salud Empalme	0	0	2
	P/Salud Banacruz	0	0	3
	P/S Wasakin	0	0	2
	P/Salud Oconwas	0	0	3
	P/Salud Rico de oro	0	0	2
	P/Salud Susún Central	0	0	2
	P/Salud Fruta de pan	0	0	2
	P/S Breñas	0	0	2
	ONG's locales	0	0	97
Total		1590	7828	3500

Distribution Method

Distribution was focused towards benefiting mainly pregnant women and mothers with children under 5 years of age, and was conducted through community assemblies.

PCI and the MOH assigned staff and vehicles to take the LLINs to distribution points. Messages were broadcasted through a local radio station, calling for community leaders and health volunteer networks to help organize the community assemblies, and calling for community members that met the specific criteria and that live in the most remote places to participate in the distribution.



Assemblies were carried out in each of the distribution points. In some cases, PCI and MOH staff visited the homes of women that could not attend the assemblies to provide them with their LLINs and training on the use of the nets, as well as other basic health information.

LLINs were received by community members using a PCI reception format that includes information including: name of head of family, number of people living in the house, number of children under 5 years of age, number of pregnant women, number of LLINs and signature.

Education

At the distribution points and in the homes of beneficiaries, PCI, in coordination with the MOH, conducted Education Sessions to teach beneficiary families about the dangers of malaria and the means for transmission of this deadly illness, as well as about other important health issues.

Subjects discussed during education sessions included:

- What is malaria?
- Types of malaria
- Forms of transmission
- What causes malaria?
- Prevention measures: Cleaning brushy terrains around the house; draining puddles, cleaning anopheles breeding places.
- Importance of the use of mosquito nets as one of the most important prevention measures during nighttime.
- Importance of prenatal controls for pregnant women to avoid pregnancy risks.
- Importance of exclusive breastfeeding for child development during the first 6 months of their lives.



To reinforce the knowledge imparted to beneficiaries, PCI and the MOH distributed 1,400 brochures with information about the use of the LLINs.

PCI wants to thank AMF for its support in this very important endeavor that will definitely represent a huge benefit for local families in reducing the prevalence of malaria, especially during the upcoming rainy season that lasts almost 9 months in this specific area of the country.

III PHOTOS AND VIDEO

PCI is sending with this report more than 160 photos taken throughout the distribution program and portraying the most important aspects of the distribution activities.

PCI is also sending a 5-minute edited video and nearly 40 minutes of raw footage to provide AMF with materials that it could use on its webpage.

In addition, PCI is also attaching to this report the brochures that were developed and distributed during the implementation of LLINs distribution program. The brochure provides information on the proper use of the LLINs.

IV QUOTES FROM BENEFICIARIES

The following are quotes from beneficiaries during the implementation of the distribution program:

- “I am really grateful with these organizations that came to bring us help”.
Margarita Olivas Martínez
Community of Las Breñas, April 14, 2008.
- “There are a lot of mosquitoes down here and mosquito nets are necessary to keep our family healthy.”
Jamileth Pérez Ruiz.
Community of Las Breñas, April 14, 2008.
- “With these nets we avoid contracting illnesses like dengue and malaria.”
Margarita Soza García.”
Community of Las Breñas, April 14, 2008.
- We plan on using these nets that we are receiving today, to avoid malaria.
Teresa Blandón.
Community of Las Breñas, April 14, 2008.
- This has been a great benefit for us, because we do not have the Money to buy the nets on our own.
Maria Jarquín
Community of Las Breñas, April 14, 2008.
- First of all, I want to thank the organization PCI – Nicaragua that has been supporting us in rehabilitating the community well, and providing the mosquito nets, which will come to benefit the health of our families.
Ronaldo Ordóñez Rivera, Vice-President Community of Las Breñas



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