

A REPORT ON THE POST DISTRIBUTION EVALUATION OF LONG LASTING INSECTICIDE TREATED NETS DONATED BY WORLD SWIM AGAINST MALARIA IN THE BAFUT HEALTH DISTRICT

Context

Following the distribution of 10.000 WSM LLINs to children under five in Bafut Health District Cameroon by ACMS/PSI in collaboration with the NMCP and PLAN Cameroon in April 2008, a door to door evaluation on the effective use of the nets by recipients was effected by the ACMS/PSI North West regional office. The evaluation team that consisted of the ACMS/PSI regional coordinator Tanteh Vitalis and four members of the staff had as objective to verify if recipients are actually using the bed nets, get their opinions and take pictures as evidence. With this in mind, the team visited the nine health areas within the Bafut Health District (Akofunguba, Nforya, Mankanikong, Mbakong, Manji, Nsem, Mundum, Buwe-Bukari and Mambu).

Preliminary activities

The exercise that lasted seven days began with a contact visit to the DMO of Bafut who collaborated with the team by providing them with the total list of recipients and a map to guide them within the community. A plan of action was then devised for the descent.

Field Observations

The following were points noted:

- Both parents (mother and father) and in some cases elderly children could demonstrate the process of mounting the net over the bed. Thus, it was a joint responsibility and everyone had in some way received basic training either at the health centre or in one of the churches.



A mother and her daughter near her LLIN well installed in Akofungha health area



A mother with her Baby in from of the bed with a LLIN installed (Mambu health area)

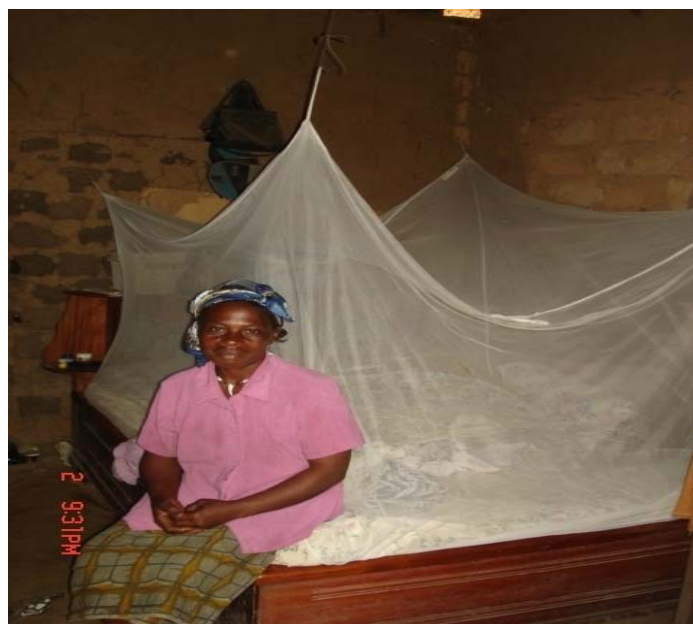


A group of children snapped by the evaluation team in MANKANNIKONG Health area

- Most of the houses visited had no roofs, but the nets had been skilfully mounted using additional ropes and sticks to secure it.



Net mounted in a house without roofs in Nforya Health area



A mother near her net mounted in Mbakong Health Area

- Besides the nets donated by ACMS, some of the houses had additional nets they had bought or had been given long ago. While they still use these nets, unfortunately, most of them have not been retreated, so the effectiveness is low.



A mother in the room with an old net (not treated) installed and the WSM LLIN still in the package in Mbakong health area



An ordinary net (not treated) in a house in Manji health area

- A few people who had not started using the nets given to them (especially pregnant women) explained that they wanted to give birth before they start using the net. In such cases, we gave out education and encouraged them to start using the nets while preparing to give birth.



A pregnant woman with her little child showing the net received and kept awaiting the incoming baby



A little baby boy holding his own net still not mounted in Mundum health area



A little baby girl holding his own net still not mounted in Mundum health area



A member of the evaluation staff helping a mother to remove a LLIN from the packaging for its installation in Mambu Health area

Key outcome of the Evaluation

The evaluation indicated a success in most of the areas visited. Over 90% of the households visited had the nets mounted over their beds and in use. The success rate was overwhelming in the wet Mbakong and Buwe-Bukari health areas where almost all the houses visited had nets in them. Unfortunately, the semi urban areas like Nsem had a few cases of nets that had not been mounted for unaccounted reasons. In such situations, we educated the members of the households on the importance of sleeping under a treated mosquito net and the need to hang them soonest.

Problems encountered

The major difficulties encountered were the difficult terrain (especially with the rains) and gaining access into the rooms where the nets had been mounted. But with some good public relations and communication skills, we were able to penetrate most of the houses and over 200 pictures taken.

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