

<p><i>In case to reply the number and date of this letter should be quoted.</i> Your Ref. No. My Ref. No. GHS/UWR/.../...</p>		<p>Ghana Health Service Regional Health Directorate P. O. Box 298 Wa Upper West Region Email: ghs-uwf@africaonline.com.gh Tel: 233 756 22204 233 756 22727 Fax: 233 756 22471</p>
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**World Swim for Malaria (WSM) Donated Long Lasting Insecticide Treated
Nets (LLITNs) to Upper West Region:
A report on the distribution, December 2007**

I attach the report on the distribution of the World Swim for Malaria (WSM) donated LLITNs to vulnerable groups in the Upper West Region.

The region received ten thousand (10,000) LLITNs donation from World Swim for Malaria through UNICEF in September 2007 for free distribution to vulnerable groups i.e. children under-five years.

The region is most grateful for the support.

Thank you.

Dr Erasmus E. A. Agongo
RDHS

**World Swim for Malaria (WSM) Donated Long Lasting Insecticide Treated
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Upper West Region is one of the poorest administrative regions in Ghana, and has the highest under-five mortality of 208 per 1000 live-births compared to national average of 111 per 1000 live-births. The region has a population of 2007 projected population of 648,900 living in sparsely populated settlements. The region is administratively subdivided into eight (8) districts and 62 sub-districts.

Malaria is hyper-endemic in the region and is the leading cause of outpatient attendance, hospital admissions and under-five mortality.

The distribution of LLITNs to pregnant women and children is one of the key interventions being implemented to reduce the malaria burden and mortality to contribute to achieving the MDG 4 and 5. The major constraint has been inadequate funding to meet the cost of LLITNS for the vulnerable groups.

The donation 10,000 LLITNs from World Swim for Malaria was very much appreciated. To achieve greater impact the region decided to distribute the bulk of the nets to the vulnerable groups in two districts (Sissala East and Sissala West Districts) with the lowest ITNs coverage.

The ITNs arrived at the time when the region was experiencing serious floods hence some of the ITNs were also distributed to displaced populations in the region as shown in the table below.

Table: Distribution of LLITNs to Vulnerable Groups in Upper West Region by District, September 2007.

Districts	Beneficiaries			
	Flood Victims	Under-Five	Pregnant Women	Total
Sissala East	1,316	5,298	224	6,838
Sissala West	602	1,824	721	3,147
Lawra	425	297	-	722
Jirapa-Lambusie	239	300	-	539
Nadowli	156	297	-	453
Wa West	170	297	-	467
Wa East	70	297	-	367
Wa Municipal	120	297	-	417
Total	3,098	8,907	945	12,950

The region received an additional 2,950 LLITNs from government and UNICEF as part of the support to manage the flood disaster.

The region and the beneficiaries are most grateful to World Swim for Malaria and UNICEF for this immense support. It will surely go a long way to reduce the malaria burden in the two districts and hence a reduction in under-five mortality.

The figures below show the maps and some pictures taken during the distribution in the communities.

Figure 1: Map Showing Under-Five Child Mortality by Region in Ghana (GDHS 2003)
Deaths per 1,000 live births

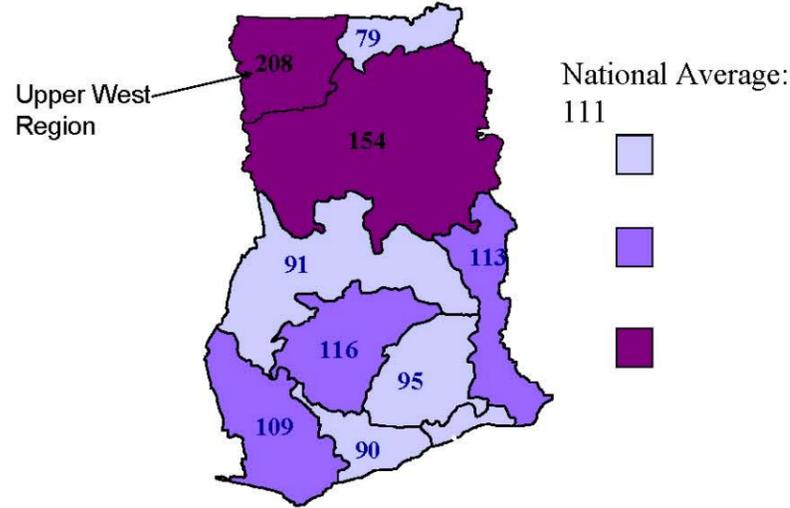


Figure 2: Map of Upper West Region Showing 8 Administrative Districts

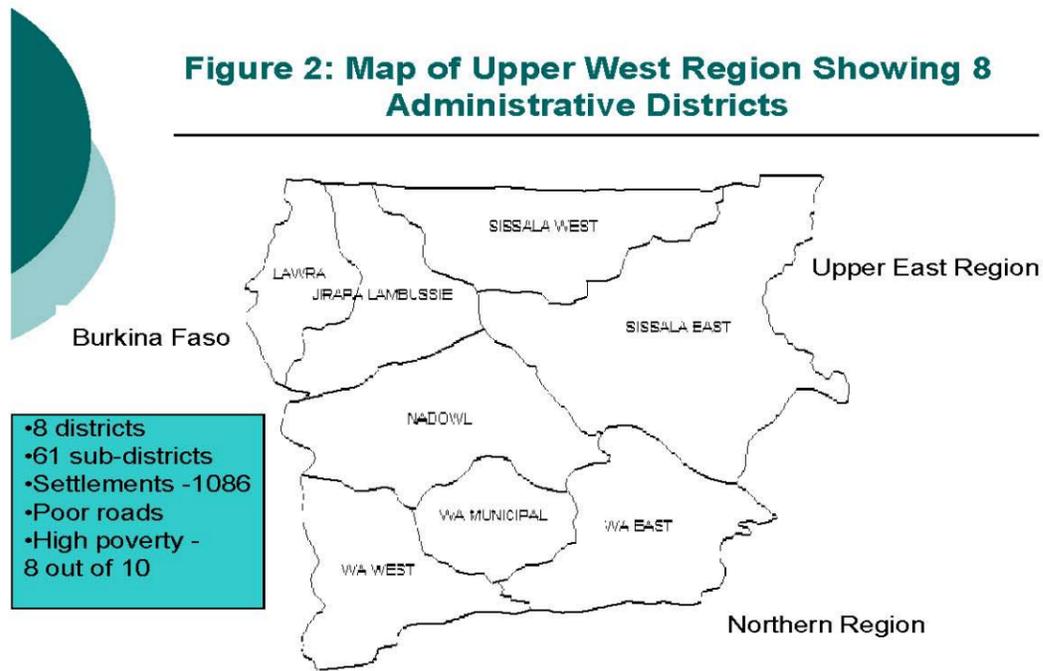


Figure 3: Medical Assistant handing over ITNs to a pregnant woman with the other staff looking on at Jawia community in Sissala West



Figure 4: Distribution at Jeffisi Health centre, Sissala West District



Figure 5: Community Health Officer handing over ITN to a mother with her child under 1yr



Figure 6: Community Based Agent educating mothers waiting to be served with free ITN on the importance of ITNs



Figure 7: Health workers struggling to open a bail of ITNs with the beneficiaries looking on



Figure 8: A group of women and their children waiting patiently for their turn to receive free ITN

