

AMF note: Despite extended and frustrating chasing of Merlin over more than a year post-distribution, we were not able to receive the contracted and agreed post-distribution report. We do not doubt that the nets were all distributed to the target communities given phone conversations with people in Liberia both within Merlin and external to Merlin. However, we do not have the required reporting from them. For the foreseeable future that would mean we would not fund nets again for a Merlin distribution simply on the basis we require our partners to do what they say they will and particularly when there are so many partners who do what they say they will and what has been agreed, the vast majority without extended chasing.

Update on Malaria Net Distribution in Sinoe County, Liberia (20 May 2008)

On behalf of Merlin I would like to apologise for the delays in the distribution of the gift of malaria nets from AMF. Below is an update on the current situation, with details on why delays have occurred. Sorry for the delay in sending you this feedback, but I wanted to gather as much information as possible, from our local partners and Ministry of Health staff in Sinoe County, before contacting you.

Distribution

A list of distribution is attached and includes all nets already distributed and those allocated to be distributed within the next few weeks.

- To date 2,703 nets have been distributed in Butaw and Tubmanville district and 1,500 in the hospital in Greenville.
- 20 nets have been distributed to the Traditionally Trained Midwives (TTMs) in the county. I realise that these were not in the original proposal and we have informed our local partner - Equip that they should have requested permission to do this. This allocation was at the request of the Ministry of Health to enable the TTMs to construct a birth delivery hut (with a net) in each of their communities. Please let me know if you are unhappy with this allocation.
- Remaining net distribution in Wiah Town and Juarazon (total = 3644) is due to take place at the beginning of next week. Merlin will provide assistance to Equip to ensure that distribution is completed.
- The remaining nets (total = 2153) will be dependent on the outcome of the post-distribution survey as detailed below.

All planned distribution involve detailed training sessions to community health ambassadors in each area to ensure nets are used properly. The training includes helping households assemble the nets in their houses and promotional material showing the correct way to use the bednets. Merlin works in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the County Health Teams to ensure all our activities are sustainable and compatible with their priorities.

Re-distribution on Pynestown area

As I mentioned in my previous email, due to an unexpected distribution of a large number of nets by the German Government (distributed through GAA), there has been a distribution delay in the Pynestown area. This delay was at the request of the Ministry of Health Official in Sinoe County who asked us to suspend distribution until a post-distribution survey was conducted. Once the survey is complete Merlin will then re-assess our distribution areas. The County Health Team will return shortly with information on which target areas have been missed, to make sure Merlin only offers AMF donated nets in areas not covered by GAA.

Merlin were rather surprised at the GAA distribution, as at the planning stage we coordinated with the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) to ensure that our distribution coverage would not overlap with any others. NMCP informed us that it would not and it was not until midway through our distribution that we were aware of another donation. Unfortunately we have no more details as to why the NMCP were not made aware of this other, large distribution.

Local Partner, Equip

Delays in distribution were also compounded due to Equip having ongoing problems with their vehicles, which has resulted in them being taken off the road for repairs. As you can imagine, the infrastructure in Sinoe County is extremely poor with many roads often being impassable. Merlin is now assisting Equip in the maintenance of their vehicles to ensure distribution can recommence.

Photos and Video

Footage and photos were sent by air from Sinoe County to Monrovia over the weekend, which I aim to get to London as soon as possible. Unfortunately, I suspect this will take time as there is no postal system in Liberia and Merlin usually has to rely on staff travelling to London to carrier post and packages. I am investigating the cost and feasibility of a courier service and will keep you informed of progress.

I realise that the delay in distribution has been very frustrating for you and I'd like to thank you for your patience. As you know, the nets are invaluable to the local communities that receive them and are making a real difference in helping save lives. Merlin wants to ensure that the nets are targeted at the most vulnerable people many of which live in very remote areas, which only adds to the complicated process of delivering the nets and has meant that progress has unfortunately been slower than we initially anticipated.

I would like to thank you and everyone at AMF for your ongoing support of our work.

Update on Malaria Net Distribution in Sinoe County, Liberia (19 Jun 2008)

Further to my email below we have now had an up date from the implementing partners regarding the nets in Pynestown area. The final GAA nets were distributed last week during a EPI campaign in the district and was household blanket coverage (door to door) and not specifically targeted to the vulnerable population (children under 5 and pregnant women). The MoH County Health Team has therefore requested that Merlin distribute the additional nets to the district targeting this group.

I would be grateful if you confirm that AMF are happy with this. Additionally I now have some photos which I will send through to you asap.

Sinoe Equip Liberia PHC Program
Mosquito Bednets Distribution

Butaw Clinic (Butaw District)

	Community	Lead CHA	# of Nets Distributed
1	Touh	Mark Patten	192
2	Blaoh	Matthew Chea	93
3	Plusonnie	Thomas Nyeneon	75
4	Komannah	Lewis Koon	129
5	Compound	Beatrice Sleulso	126
6	Snohgbay Town	Matthew Nyesuah	165
7	Penham Farm	Anthony Peal	33
8	David Town	Ephesian Kieah	138
9	Kaytuson	Vasco Pajibo	54
10	Grisby Farm (A+B)	Wayonon Kieah/Jasper Menjae	315
			1,320

Tubmanville Clinic (Kpanyan District)

	Community	Lead CHA	# of Nets Distributed
1	Du Mission	Twiah Japloh	99
2	Blue Barrack	Augustine Myers	150
3	Gmarkerkree	Catherine Teakwah	111
4	Panama	Mitchell Gerboe	159
5	Saywonker	T. Marie Sankpah	98
6	Tubmanville	Samuel Jenerune	165
7	Pochen 1	Clarence Worjloh	105
8	Pochen 2	Worjloh Sackor	57
9	Tweh Town	Richard S. Torbor	60
10	Kabada	Mary Karmo	207
			1,211

Trained Traditional Midwives (Tubmanville - Kpanyan District)

	Name	Community	# of Nets Distributed
1	MARTHA BROH	TUBMANVILLE	1
2	ELIZABETH SONKPAH	TUBMANVILLE	1
3	EVELYN D. CHEA	KABADA	1
4	REBECCA WIAH	WARBAR	1
5	SOPHIA WESSEH	POCHEN 1	1
6	ELIZABETH T. TEAH	WARBAR	1
7	EMMA NAGBEA	ZARZAR TOWN	1
8	THERESA SARKOR	PALATROKEN	1

9	ORETHA KAFFA	KILO TOWN	1
10	NORA WEAH	KILO TOWN	1
11	NETOR WELLOR	DEJILAH	1
12	EDITH QUIOH	DEJILAH	1
13	RACHEL JAH	PLASIKEN	1
14	FELECIA QUAJUE	SAYWON TOWN	1
15	EMMA DUOPO	NIMPO KABADA	1
16	VICTORIA BARDUEA	PALA TOWN	1
17	ANNIE SEEBLEH	PANAMA	1
18	SARAH SWEN	MANNAH TOWN	1
19	MARTHA WORJLOH	ROCK TOWN	1
20	ANNA SARKOR	POCHEN 2	1
			20

Community Health Ambassadors

	Name	# of Nets Distributed (11th and 12th April)
1	Butaw	80
2	Tubmanville	72
		152

ELWA - FJ Grante Hospital

Name	# of Nets handed over (16th May 08)
Mr. Daniel Clark	1,500
Total Distributed	4,203

Sinoe Equip Liberia PHC Program

Mosquito Bednets Distribution

Wiah's Town Clinic (Tarjuowon District)

	<u>Community</u>	<u>Estimate # of Nets</u>
1	Nyenfueh Town	180
2	Wiah's Town	79
3	Garpu Town	88
4	Samue Town	405
5	New Town	63
6	Tugbah Town	88
7	Grebo Quarter	113
8	Pajibo	32
9	New George	36
10	Judeh Town	59
		1141

Juarzon Clinic (Bilibokree District)

	<u>Community</u>	<u>Estimate # of Nets</u>
1	Bilibokree	1325
2	Karmon	407
3	Sargbeh/Wolo	113
4	Swen	59
5	Gbason	50
6	Pratt Farm	77
7	Gbanoe	47
8	Chewlue	54
9	Funnioh	97
10	Geelor	72
		2301

Community Health Ambassadors

	<u>District</u>	<u>Estimate # of Nets</u>
1	Wiah's Town Clinic (Tarjuowon District)	82
2	Juarzon Clinic (Bilibokree District)	60
		142

Trained Traditional Midwives

	<u>District</u>	<u>Estimate # of Nets</u>
1	Wiah's Town Clinic (Tarjuowon District)	20
2	Juarzon Clinic (Bilibokree District)	20
3	Butaw Clinic	20
		60

Total # to be Distributed

3644

Pending allocation

1653