

**KENYA RED CROSS SOCIETY
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES- FAMILY HEALTH HOME BASED CARE PROJECT
MOSQUITO NETS DISTRIBUTION**

Malaria is one of the diseases that are very common in the Lake Basin and Coast Province where Siaya and Mombasa branch fall respectively. Morbidity and mortality of the under 5 year’s children as a result of malaria is high in this areas. This applies to pregnant mothers too. Mombasa received 1496 while Siaya received 1500 LLITNs

Amongst persons living with HIV/AIDS, malaria is a condition that has to be put in check. In an effort to reduce mortality and morbidity due to malaria through integrated disease prevention and control, Kenya Red Cross society in collaboration with her partners and well wishers have contributed by distributing LLITNs (long lasting Insect side Treated Nets) to the vulnerable members’ of the community. This has been done through Family Health Home Based Care projects in Mombasa and Sega Siaya targeting PLWHAs, under 5 years’ children, pregnant mothers and other vulnerable people including the elderly.

During distribution which involved staff of KRCS, volunteers, and ministry of health, assessment of already existing mechanisms put towards reducing malaria was done. Prior to that orientation on proper and effective use of LLITNs was done to volunteers who in turn conducted Health talks that preceded the distribution exercise. In addition Hung up demonstration was carried out.

Follow up to ensure consistent and proper use of the nets will be facilitated by Community Health Workers and coaches (TOTs) during their routine home visits. At the same time, beneficiaries will be selected randomly to give feedback and their experience based on the usage of the LLITNs.

The table here below indicates how the nets were distributed according to the already highlighted categories;

CATEGORY	NUMBER OF NETS DISTRIBUTED	
	<i>SIAYA BRANCH</i>	<i>MOMBASA BRANCH</i>
HBC clients	450	506
Under 5 years children	565	302
Pregnant mothers	35	183
Other vulnerable persons (OVCs and the aged)	450	505
TOTAL	1,500	1,496

NOTE.

During distribution of nets which was done in Urban and village level, the following was observed

- There’s need to put more emphasis on other ways of controlling malaria along side distribution of nets such as; clearing bushes around the houses, draining stagnant waters which are breeding places for mosquitoes and closing windows and doors in the evening before dark.
- Continuous education on signs and symptoms of malaria particularly for the under five and pregnant mothers should be enhanced

CHALLENGE

- There was rush for the mosquito nets which does not necessarily translate into proper use and hence need for continuous education.
- Lack of finance to facilitate training on malaria control and management to volunteers
- Time allocated for distribution was not sufficient.