

NET DISTRIBUTION IN BUSIA, KENYA

MARCH-APRIL 2007



DISTRIBUTION OF NETS IN BUSIA, KENYA






1. INTRODUCTION

In late January 2007, African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF) in Kenya received 3,500 long lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) donated by the **World Swim for Malaria Foundation**. The nets were stored at the AMREF's Busia field office.

In early February 2007, the AMREF Busia child survival project team met and agreed that the nets will be distributed through existing outreach clinics that target poor and hard to reach populations based on AMREF's pro-poor approach, and that pregnant women and children under 5 will be the target. The duty of coordinating the distribution process was given to the projects behaviour change and communication officer, Mr Julius Onyango.

2. IDENTIFICATION OF BENEFICIARIES

In late February 2007, Mr Julius Onyango in liaison with ministry of health staff mapped all the outreach clinics in Butula and Funyula divisions of Busia district and prioritized the following clinics that target hard to reach populations, and which fall in areas of under coverage¹ with nets:

-  Bumala B Health Centre
-  Khunyangu sub-district hospital
-  Bwaliro dispensary
-  Nambuku dispensary
-  Sioport health centre

He thereafter established calendars of the outreach clinics, and discussed distribution mechanisms with the health facility in charges. Net distribution is now described.

¹ *Busia child survival project used lot quality assurance sampling (LQAS) during the baseline assessment in 2006, and identified areas where net coverage was very low as compared to the average net coverage in the project area*

2. DISTRIBUTION OF NETS

(A) BULWANI MARKET

On March 6th 2007, Bwaliro Dispensary held an outreach clinic at Bulwani Market. Prior to this clinic, AMREF's behaviour change and communications officer, Mr Julius Onyango, had worked with the dispensaries health staff and community's own resource persons (CORPs) to mobilize pregnant women and children to attend the outreach clinic.

During the clinic, pregnant women received antenatal services including a net, while children under received immunisation, growth monitoring and a net. 584 nets were distributed to pregnant women and children under 5. Each net received was signed for in a nets register, and the client's card or book stamped to facilitate follow-up.



Women and babies register for nets at Bulwani



(B) ELUKHARI SUB LOCATION

On March 15th 2007, AMREF's behaviour change and communications officer Mr Julius Onyango and the Monitoring and evaluation officer Mr Gilbert Wangalwa worked with several CORPs and a community health extension worker to distribute 471 nets at Lokhari Primary School in Elukhari Sub Location, Butula Division. During the event, the community was also educated on malaria prevention and treatment. The distribution

benefited pregnant women who got a net upon production of an antenatal card, and children who got a net after their caretakers produced a child welfare clinic card. Each net received was signed for in a nets register.

(C) HAKATI SUB LOCATION

On March 17th 2007, Mr Julius Onyango, one community extension worker, and several CORPs distributed 708 nets at Hakati Primary School in Hakati Sub Location, Funyula Division. The distribution benefited pregnant women who got a net upon production of an antenatal card, and children who got a net after their caretakers produced a child welfare clinic card. Each net received was signed for in a nets register.



*'let's go home, home
without malaria'*



(D) OGALO SUB LOCATION

On April 12th 2007, Bumala B Health centre held at outreach clinic in Ogalo sub-location, Butula division. The project office assistant, Mr. Julius Onyango and a health worker from Bumala B health centre distributed 570 nets to pregnant women and children under five years.

(E) IKONZO SUB LOCATION

On April 23rd 2007, Khunyangu Sub District Hospital held an outreach clinic at Ikonzo Primary School in Ikonzo Sub Location, Butula Division. Mr Julius Onyango worked with the hospital staff to distribute 494 nets to pregnant women and children under 5. Each net received was signed for in a nets register.



"I've got a bright future without malaria", this boy seems to gesture

(F) KANJALA SUB LOCATION

On April 24th (Africa Malaria Day), Mr Julius Onyango, one community extension worker, one nurse from Bumala A Health Centre and several CORPs distributed 673 nets at Kanjala Primary School in Kanjala Sub Location, Butula Division. The distribution benefited pregnant women who got a net upon production of an antenatal card, and children who got a net after their caretakers produced a child welfare clinic card. Each net received was signed for in a nets register.

3. SUCCESSES AND LESSONS LEARNED

- (i) More than 3,500 vulnerable people (pregnant women and children under 5) were reached with nets

More than 3,500 women and Children have benefited from nets

- (ii) AMREF, ministry of health staff (health extension workers) worked with the CORPs to distribute nets, improving the partnership between the formal health system and the community



A Community's Own Resource Person (CORP) stamps a clients' clinic book after issuing a net

- (iii) Using rectangular nets is a challenge among residents of Funyula and Butula as it is difficult to tie the net at four corners considering the design of most houses
- (iv) Nets have a greater meaning to people if incorporated in processes that they already value, such as antenatal clinics and child welfare clinics i.e. instead of

the net being an isolated piece of intervention, it is part of a bigger and noble plan to safeguard the health of women and children



*In pursuit of a better life
without malaria*

