



RWANDA

**NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR THE MEASLES-MALARIA
MOSQUITO NET DISTRIBUTION
CAMPAIGN**

Executive Summary

In September 2006, during the nationwide measles vaccination campaign in partnership with the Rwanda's National integrated Malaria Control Program, PSI/Rwanda participated in the distribution of approximately 1.3 million long-lasting insecticide treated nets to every Rwandan child aged between six-months and five years. The campaign was a success in all aspects from financing, procurement, and customs clearance, to transportation, storage, and security during distribution all of which made possible by multiple donors. Specifically, USAID funding through PSP One, played a crucial role in supporting the logistics of the campaign.

Background

In Rwanda, more than half of all health center consultations and hospital mortalities are due to malaria. Malaria prevention is an effective method for controlling the disease, but obstacles including logistics, infrastructure issues, and sales barriers to name a few, are widespread. Thus to mitigate the aforementioned obstacles, Rwanda's National integrated Malaria Control Program built upon experiences in Togo and Niger and proposed to use coordinated partnerships to distribute one long lasting insecticidal net (LLIN) to every child under five who participated in an integrated national child survival campaign. The campaign offered a measles vaccination, vitamin A drops and mebendazole pill to every child between six months and five years old.

Output Achieved

The main objective of this project was to deliver 1,248,970 long-lasting insecticide treated nets to 2,000 measles vaccination sites before the start of the campaign scheduled for September 5, 2006 to children between the ages of six months and 5 years. PSI managed the net distribution with financial support from PSP One, in the amount of \$43,077. These funds were used to cover costs related to transportation, per diem, malaria staff salaries and PSI overhead. Logistics was carefully planned to ensure the timely and effective distribution of the large quantity of nets. Prior to the campaign some 4,000 community health workers, 2,000 local defense force personnel, and hundreds of people transported the nets to remote sites. To achieve this end, 15 land cruisers, numerous motorcycles, bicycles and even canoes were utilized. The unit cost of distributing all the nets was a meager \$0.19/net.

PSI/Rwanda planned to distribute 1,248,970 long-lasting insecticidal nets, but due to an under estimation of the target population, PSI/Rwanda, by request of the PNILP, distributed a total of 1,355,200 nets. The nets were delivered in following manner:

❖ **KIGALI :**

- Nyarugenge : 46.718
- Gasabo : 41.890
- Kicukiro : 40.928

❖ **Province de l'EST :**

- Kayonza: 38.948
- Bugesera: 45.280
- Nyagatare: 49.490
- Ngoma: 41.321
- Gatsibo: 50.168
- Rwamagana: 35.628
- Kirehe: 42.042



❖ **Province du NORD :**

- Musanze : 46.875
- Gicumbi : 50.677
- Gakenke : 56.365
- Burera : 56.025
- Rulindo : 34.588



❖ **Province du SUD :**

- Muhanga: 60.018
- Nyanza: 34.788
- Ruhango: 58.170
- Nyamagabe: 50.449
- Nyaruguru: 38.541
- Gisagara: 48.431
- Kamonyi: 61.238
- Huye: 56.527



❖ **Province de l'OUEST :**

- Rubavu : 39.766
- Rusizi : 44.094
- Karongi : 32.893
- Ngororero : 47.228
- Nyamasheke : 46.012
- Nyabihu : 37.913
- Rutsiro : 32.189

Lesson learned

The challenges encountered included some of the sites not being prepared in time, and located in areas accessible with difficulty. To overcome these challenges we reinforced our manpower and more strategically planned out the logistics. The areas that were nearly inaccessible were reached using other means of transportation such as canoes and bicycles. There were even bridges made out of tree trunks that could not support the weight of the truck carrying the nets. We were able to improvise by unloading the nets, carrying them over by hand, and reloading the truck after it had crossed the unstable bridge.

In future activities similar to the Measles-Malaria Mosquito Net Distribution Campaign, preliminary activities such as elaborating the convention, obtaining signatures and receiving the funds will need to be finalized earlier. The nets should be procured and distributed much earlier to guarantee efficient execution. Lastly, to avoid traveling when road conditions are bad and delays are inevitable due to the weather it will be more advantageous to program this activity to take place prior to the rainy season.

Conclusion

Thanks to the strong leadership and coordination among partners, the integrated campaign was a success. Logistics played a crucial role in the campaign. The funds received from PSP One attributed to filling the gap in salary and transportation costs required to finalize the campaign. Furthermore, accompanying LLIN distribution with vaccination campaigns is a proven cost effective way to rapidly increase coverage of vulnerable groups to protect them from malaria. To follow-up on this remarkable achievement, Rwanda is now planning to conduct an assessment of household ITN coverage, to reinforce communication campaigns for net usage among vulnerable groups, and to scale up combination therapy delivery for malaria treatment through public, private, and community based channels.