



# A Treated Mosquito Net for Every Child Under 5 in Rwanda

**In September 2006, a coordinated partnership led by the Government of Rwanda resulted in 1.3 million long lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) being delivered to every Rwandan child aged between 6 months and 5 years during a week long integrated child survival campaign.**

As in much of sub-Saharan Africa, Rwanda is hit hard by malaria, which accounts for more than half of all health center visits and hospital mortality. Building on experiences in Togo, Niger and other countries, Rwanda's national integrated Malaria Control Program (NIMCP) proposed an ambitious plan to distribute one long lasting insecticidal net (LLIN) to every child under five participating in an integrated national child survival campaign which included measles vaccination, vitamin A and mebendazole.

The delivery of LLINs during vaccination campaigns is a proven cost effective way to rapidly increase coverage of vulnerable groups



and protect them from malaria. The unit cost of distributing 1.3 million nets to 2000 vaccination points nationwide in Rwanda was just \$0.19/net. However, ensuring the timely, effective distribution of so many nets using trucks, landcruisers, motorcycles, bicycles, and even canoes was no small challenge.

As a result of strong national leadership, Rwanda's national malaria program ensured success in all aspects of the campaign – from financing, procurement, and customs clearance, through to correctly estimating district needs, transportation, secure storage, and crowd management during distribution.

The success of this integrated campaign can be attributed to several factors, including :

- The NIMCP led weekly planning meetings to examine all details of the campaign and plan for every contingency, including an additional 200,000 LLINs added to the original 1.1 million estimated.
- The MOH provided strong leadership and vision in engaging participation from partners across multiple sectors including :
  - CAMERWA (Rwanda's central tendering agency) who was in charge of managing the distribution sub-contract.
  - PSI who managed the distribution logistics for LLINs.
  - Red Cross, who mobilized community volunteers at 2000 vaccination posts.



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- UNDP who managed the procurement of LLINs.
- UNICEF and WHO for strategic and micro planning.
- Key international donors, including Global Fund, USAID, UNICEF and WHO, provided sufficient financial support for the national campaign.
- Logistics were carefully planned and sufficient support systems put in place before the campaign, including 30 five-ton trucks; 15 land cruisers; numerous motorcycles, bicycles and even canoes. Some 4000 community health workers, 2000 local defense force personnel were also involved as well as hundreds of people required to carry the LLINs to the most remote vaccination sites.
- Sufficient supervision was included to ensure MOH and partner oversight in every vehicle and at every point of delivery.
- Personnel at MOH, EPI, NIMCP and among partners remained motivated and committed to achieving the ambitious national goals. Strong MOH leadership reinforced a team spirit and clear directions for each partner.

Following on this outstanding success, 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 ACT delivery for malaria treatment through public, private, and community based channels.



## For further information please contact:

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