

Project Title/Name: Universal LLIN Distribution Campaign in Greater Accra, Northern and Upper West Regions, Ghana

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Activity Report for August 2016

Venue of Activity: Northern, Greater Accra and Upper West Regions	Total Number of Districts in Region: Forty three (43) districts for AMF work
Implementation period: August, 2016	Report Date: September 15, 2016
Activities Organized by: Various activities during reporting period organized by National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP), Episcopal Relief & Development and ADDRO with support from Against Malaria Foundation (AMF)	

Introduction / Background

Against Malaria Foundation is supporting the Ghanaian National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) in their 2016 mass LLIN distribution campaign to distribute 2,686,808 LLINs in the Northern, Upper West and Greater Accra regions.

Episcopal Relief & Development and its implementing partner – the Anglican Diocesan Development and Relief Organization (ADDRO) worked with the NMCP and Ghana Health Service (GHS) to continue the successful implementation of activities.

This report highlights campaign activities as well as other project planning and coordination activities undertaken by Episcopal Relief & Development/ADDRO in the month of August 2016.

Overview of Key Activities implemented in August

During the reporting period, Episcopal Relief & Development/Anglican Diocesan Development and Relief Organization (ADDRO) worked in collaboration with the NMCP and GHS to implement six major activities. All the six activities are under the post-distribution phase. These included the following:

- Consultative meeting with the Northern Region Health Directorate in Tamale
- Post-distribution data validation in Greater Accra Region
- Recruitment of sub-district Supervisors in Northern Region

- Development of training manual for the sub-district Supervisors and Community Volunteers
- Hosting a team from GiveWell
- Monitoring of Northern region registration and distribution data entry

In addition to these major activities, ADDRO undertook various internal activities including planning, coordination and management meetings to discuss organizational issues with special attention to the AMF program. Within the period, ADDRO intensified monitoring of data entry process to ensure accuracy and to bring closure to the registration and distribution data entry for Northern Region.

A comprehensive update on activities implemented within the reporting period is presented in the table below:

AMF Monthly Activity Report – Table of Activities (August, 2016)

№	Date(s)	Location	Activity	Brief Description of Activity	Stakeholders involved	Outcome / Findings / Comments
All activities within the current monthly reporting period fall within the Post-Distribution Phase						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>More details on Post-Distribution activities in the Northern Region are forthcoming in the PDCU Report to be submitted December 15, 2016.</i> • <i>More details on Post-Distribution activities in the Greater Accra and Upper West regions are forthcoming in the PDCU Report to be submitted March 15 and May 15¹, 2017, respectively.</i> 						
1	August. 5	Tamale, Northern Region	Consultative meeting with the Northern Regional Health Directorate	This meeting was to brief the Regional Director of Health Services and his team about post distribution activities and to seek their continuous cooperation and support for the post campaign activities in the Northern Region.	ADDRO (Head of Programs, Health Coordinator M&E Officer, Northern Region Coordinator & Northern Region Volunteer Supervisor), GHS	At this meeting, the GHS team was taken through the post distribution activities and the strategies involved. In order to gain their commitment, ADDRO team submitted an official letter to the Regional Director of Health Services who pledged his support to disseminate the information to the lower levels, soliciting their support and cooperation for the post campaign activities.
2	August 15-27	12 Districts of Greater Accra Region	Monitoring of post-distribution data validation in Greater Accra Region	The validation was to establish precisely how many LLINs were distributed during the distribution campaign in all 12 districts. Apart from validating counterfoils, the validators undertook “End-User Verification”. The end-user verification (EUV) is a rapid check-up to determine whether the beneficiaries really received the number of LLINs allocated for the households and are using the LLINs for the intended purpose. This involved randomly selecting 100 households in each district to verify LLINs received, LLIN use by household members, etc. Validators randomly sampled 100 booklets and from each booklet, randomly	GHS, NMCP, ADDRO	24 NMCP validators were assigned to work in the 12 AMF supported districts (2 validators per district). Two teams from ADDRO (a team from the ADDRO HQ and a team from the ADDRO Greater Accra office) visited all the 12 AMF districts to monitor the validation process and to provide support for the packaging of coupon counterfoils for transportation to ADDRO headquarters in Bolgatanga. Key findings were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was comparatively easier for the validators/ monitoring team to enter into bedrooms/sleeping places of beneficiaries in the rural areas to inspect or observe net usage (LLINs hanging and being used) than it was in the urban areas. Residents in the urban

¹ Due to the change in schedule for the LLIN Distribution in the Upper West Region to take place in September, the subsequent dates of the PDCU has been changed to March, 2017 and PDCU reporting to May, 2017.

				<p>sampled one coupon counterfoil for the EUV visit. Validators then called the beneficiaries of the sampled coupon counterfoils and followed up to the households for the end-user verification exercise.</p> <p>The role of ADDRO/Episcopal Relief & Development in the post-campaign validation was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To conduct light monitoring of the post distribution validation activities • To identify issues in the coupon counterfoils that need to be noted during data entry • To support NMCP validators to package coupons counterfoils per the agreement with NMCP (by communities, Sub-districts and Districts) 		<p>areas felt very reluctant to allow ‘strangers’ to observe their sleeping places.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ashaiman and Ningo Prampram districts had significant numbers of nets not redeemed. For example, Ashaiman had 127 bales (12,700 pieces) at the District Health Directorate not distributed. The reasons given were that during the distribution in July, there was a LLIN shortage (because the districts had not received all their nets) so later when the districts finally had their nets, beneficiaries did not turn up to claim them. The GHS staff had called most of the beneficiaries per the contact numbers in the coupon counterfoils but only few came for the LLINs. This issue was reported to NMCP to take action.
3	August 15 – 18	Accra plus 3 districts in the Greater Accra Region: La Dade-Kotopon, Ga South and Ada West districts	GiveWell visit	<p>Givewell, (an organization that helps to raise funds for AMF, and raised funds for the Ghana LLIN campaign) visited Ghana to learn more about AMF’s work. The program for the visit included meetings with stakeholders and site visits. Meetings were held with the following stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Episcopal Relief & Development • ADDRO (HQ staff and ADDRO Greater Accra team) • NMCP • Greater Accra Regional Health Directorate • VectorWorks <p>The general schedule of the 4-day visit was as follows:</p>	AMF, Episcopal Relief & Development, ADDRO (HQ staff - Executive Director, and M&E Officer; Greater Accra staff - Coordinator, Volunteer Supervisor and Accounts Officer), NMCP, Greater Accra Regional Health Directorate, VectorWorks and Ada West District Health Directorate	<p>Some highlights of the GiveWell visit are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the meetings with the various stakeholders went on as planned with the exception of the meeting with the Greater Accra Regional Health Directorate which was planned for the second day and had to be moved to the third day (at the last minute). • During the meeting with Episcopal Relief & Development, the team gave a brief background on Episcopal Relief & Development and its award winning <i>NetsforLife</i>® program. Details on the AMF program was then shared with GiveWell. It was noted that GiveWell knew little about Episcopal Relief & Development/ADDRO’s role of light monitoring of the pre-distribution and distribution phases and requested for more information and sharing of reports submitted to AMF.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day 1 focused on meetings with Episcopal Relief & Development and ADDRO staff along with the AMF Program Director. • Day 2 was dedicated to meetings with the NMCP and VectorWorks with the day ending with a dinner. • Day 3 was devoted to meeting with the Greater Accra Regional Health Directorate and two site visits (communities in La Dade-Kotopon and Ga South districts). • Day 4, the last day, entailed site visit to the Ada West district and debriefing meeting with Episcopal Relief & Development and NMCP representative in the Episcopal Relief & Development regional office in Accra. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GiveWell randomly selected two semi-urban districts and one rural district for site visits. They observed disparities between work in the rural communities and the semi-urban communities. In the rural communities, the household members were welcoming and generally seemed excited about the LLINs. They willingly allowed the GiveWell team to observe nets at sleeping places and a good number of households interviewed mentioned they had slept under their nets the previous night. With the semi-urban communities, households interviewed were not very willing to allow the GiveWell team to observe nets at sleeping places. A number of households mentioned they did not sleep under the LLINs the previous night. Discussions with the households revealed either lack of knowledge and or incorrect information on basic LLIN messages. <p>More information and detail is available in the separate GiveWell notes/report.</p>
4	August 22-29	20 Districts of Northern Region	<p>Recruitment of Sub-district Volunteer Supervisors (SDV) in Northern Region</p>	<p>ADDRO teams visited the District Health Directorates of all 20 selected districts to have discussions with the District Health Management Teams (DHMTs) on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Context of ADDRO’s contribution to the fight against malaria • ADDRO’s mandate to monitor the use of and care for the AMF-sponsored LLINs which were distributed across 20 districts in the region • Recruiting Sub-district Volunteer Supervisors in the various Sub-districts to be responsible for monitoring the activities 	ADDRO	<p>ADDRO advertised the vacant Sub-District Volunteer Supervisor positions through announcements at community radios in some communities and displayed posters of these vacancy announcements at vantage places in the sub districts ADDRO team conducted an interview for the shortlisted applicants and recruited 98 qualified sub-district volunteer supervisors (who are not GHS staff) who are ready for training to commence work. It is worth noting that these SDVs are residents of the sub districts.</p>

				of community volunteers. All Sub-districts were visited and sub-district leaders briefed about the program		
5	August, 22-30	ADDRO Headquarters, Bolgatanga	Development of training manual for the Sub-district Supervisors & Community Volunteers	A training manual has been developed by ADDRO for the training of sub district supervisors as well as the enumerators and volunteers. It will also serve as a guide for the Regional Coordinators and the Volunteer Supervisors.	ADDRO	The manual, which has been shared with Episcopal Relief & Development for review, has been developed to build the capacity of participants on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles and Responsibilities of Sub district Volunteer / community volunteer/ enumerator • Data collection • Health messages to be delivered during HH visits, etc.
6	August	Data Entry Centre, Bolgatanga	Monitoring of data entry	Within the reporting period, ADDRO intensified monitoring and support to the data entry process as the Northern Region Registration and distribution data entry process was completed for both main data and 6% data.	ADDRO and Episcopal Relief & Development with technical support from AMF	Highlights of the data entry process in August were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data entry for Northern Region registration and distribution is complete. All the coupon counterfoils have been well packaged and are ready to be conveyed back to GHS Districts and sub-districts. • At a point it was observed that the 6% data entry was lagging behind and this called for an increase in the number of clerks for the 6%. The increase of 6% data entry clerks from 2 to 10 yielded much progress and enabled the completion of 6% data entry check by the end of August. • At the end of the Data Entry process, the 6% check value was at 6.1%. After checking over 1,500 Key Data Match entries, 6% check value reduced to 5.80% • A challenge was that some of the 6% entries appeared to have their main data not found in the system even though the data was actually in the system. This concern was presented to AMF for clarification and technical support in resolving the issue. • ADDRO submitted a recommendation to AMF to

						change all drop down list items on the database to textboxes in order to minimize the errors as data entry clerks will have to type the value rather than selecting from a dropdown list.
7	August	ADDRO HQ, Bolgatanga	Project Planning & Miscellaneous Activities	The ADDRO management team worked together to develop a strategy, work plan and data collection tools for the post campaign activities for the rest of the year. These documents were shared with the ADDRO regional teams and staff were briefed on strategy, work plan and data collection tools.	ADDRO GHS	<p>Key action items were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The planning and strategy documents were shared with the ADDRO regional teams and staff were briefed on strategy, work plan and data collection tools. • The planning and strategy documents were shared with and reviewed by Episcopal Relief & Development and AMF. AMF responded by providing a PDCU planning template, which is currently being completed. • A letter was written to the regional health directors of the three regions on the PDCU to be carried out at their respective districts/communities.

Conclusions

Overall, the planned activities within the reporting period were successfully carried out without major challenges apart from the few observed in the post distribution validation mentioned above. Within the period, each of the program stakeholders including Episcopal Relief & Development/ADDRO, GHS/NMCP and AMF continued to play their respective roles to ensure effective implementation and quality outcomes of the project.

Having completed the electronic entry of Northern Region registration and distribution data, the data entry centre and the database have been prepared in readiness for the next set of data entry – the registration and distribution data from Greater Accra Region. Data entry for Greater Accra is expected to begin on September 13th, 2016.

As of the end of August, the pre-distribution and distribution activities in both the Northern and Greater Accra regions are complete, with both regions well-positioned for the upcoming PDCUs scheduled to take place in October (2016) and January (2017), respectively.

The success of the implementation of this program so far is as a result of the high level of cooperation and commitment by the key program partners and collaborators particularly Episcopal Relief & Development/ADDRO, GHS/NMCP and Against Malaria Foundation.