



## Case Study

# Ghana: Nationwide Distribution of Bed Nets to Stop Malaria



USAID | DELIVER PROJECT 2011

A family in the Kwahu East district of the Eastern region with their new bed net hung over the sleeping place.

**Increasing ownership and use of bed nets in homes is a key strategy to reduce the malaria disease burden and related deaths.**

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Malaria is a major public health concern in Ghana with the entire population of 25 million at risk. It is the number one cause of morbidity and mortality, accounting for 35 percent of all hospital admissions, 18 percent of all deaths in hospitals, and causing the deaths of about 1,500 children under the age of five each year.<sup>1</sup>

From May 2010 to June 2012, the National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) and its partners, including the President’s Malaria Initiative-funded USAID | DELIVER PROJECT (the project), conducted a nationwide campaign with volunteers going door to door to distribute and hang long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets (LLINs) for free.

Increasing ownership and use of bed nets in homes is a key strategy to reduce the malaria disease burden and related deaths. The goal of the campaign was to achieve universal ownership of LLINs; one bed net was given for every two persons in the household, ensuring everyone access to a bed net to prevent mosquito bites at night and potentially break the malaria infection transmission chain.

A critical success factor for a campaign covering an entire population is a strong logistics and supply chain management system to ensure that the LLINs and other supplies are available when needed. This means bringing the right quantities of supplies, to the right locations, at the right time, in the right conditions, and at the right cost. The USAID | DELIVER PROJECT, as a strategic supply systems partner to the NMCP, provided technical assistance in logistics management to ensure that all materials were in the right places to ensure a successful implementation of the nationwide campaign.

Working with the NMCP and partners, the project estimated the logistics required for the campaign and procured 4.5 million of the

<sup>1</sup> Ghana Health Service 2011 Annual Report



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campaign's 13.5 million LLINs, as well as ancillary supplies, including ropes and nails. The project transported the bulk of the supplies from the central warehouse to the districts and trained more than 3,500 campaign volunteers in logistics management to ensure that the appropriate storage and inventory management was carried out with efficiency and accountability.

A specially designed campaign logistics system and associated training for field personnel ensured that records were kept at each level of the supply system and that movements of commodities were tracked to prevent losses from deterioration or pilfering, which can lead to a shortage of supplies. The project also partnered with the NMCP and other implementing partners to supervise the implementation in all regions of the country.

In 2011, a survey<sup>1</sup> conducted in the first two participating regions of the campaign revealed that the number of households with at least one insecticide-treated bed net had increased from 43 percent in 2008 to 85 percent in 2011 in the Volta region, and from 36 percent to 78 percent in the Eastern region during the same time. Such a large increase in LLIN ownership, especially among the poorest part of the population, is expected to have a significant impact on malaria morbidity and mortality in Ghana.



In the Eastern region, logistics monitoring personnel count empty LLIN bags to validate the number of nets issued by volunteers to beneficiaries. Photo credit: USAID | DELIVER PROJECT 2010.



A truck loaded with LLINs leaves the Central Medical Stores for the districts. Photo credit: USAID | DELIVER PROJECT 2010.

<sup>1</sup>Ghana Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2011

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