



Partnership To End Malaria



Photography by Hugues Ahounou

Case study

Benin

As the rainy season approaches in West and Central Africa, the malaria community is working to implement new strategies to distribute mosquito nets to protect families from malaria despite the disruption caused by the COVID-19. For the first time, community health workers in Benin went door-to-door to distribute more than 8 million mosquito nets across the country. About 5,500 community workers were mobilized to complete this life-saving activity in 20 days.

11 485 035

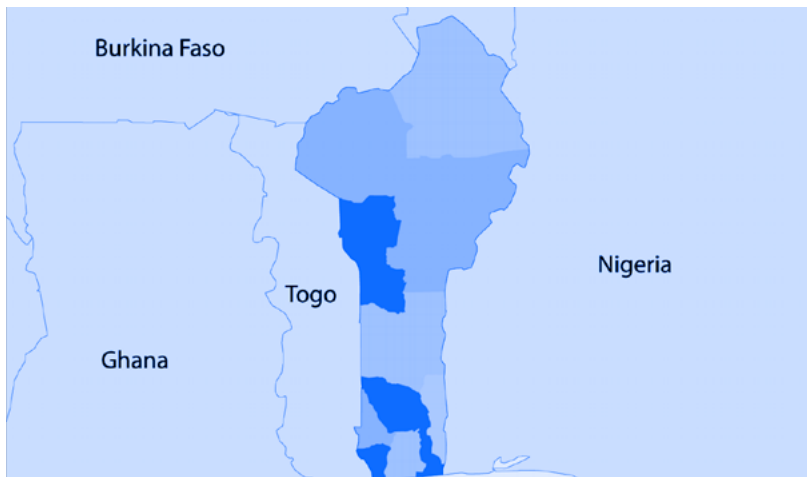
Population at risk

4 435 318

Estimated cases

7 081

Estimated deaths



CONFIRMED CASES
PER 1000 POPULATION

WHO World Malaria Report 2019

In 2020 Benin is conducting a mass insecticide treated nets (ITN) distribution campaign and it has completed indoor residual spraying (IRS) and seasonal malaria chemoprevention (SMC) campaigns.



Photography by Hugues Ahounou

COVID-19 reached Benin in mid-March 2020, just days ahead of the scheduled once-every-three-years insecticide-treated mosquito net mass distribution campaign. Given the importance of the campaign for protecting the population ahead of the rainy season, particularly as the situation could worsen due to the COVID-19 impacts, the Benin National Malaria Control Programme has worked with in-country and international partners to ensure that the life-saving nets reached households while maximizing COVID-19 prevention.

The campaign's strategy was changed from centralized distribution points to door-to-door visits—using motorbikes and even tricycles to deliver nets. Community health workers were trained and equipped with masks, gloves

and soap, and instructed to wash their hands at least once every five households visited. Used masks and gloves were subsequently disposed of in health centres. Smartphones were used to track the number of nets delivered to each household and for distribution teams to communicate in real-time. In addition, all channels of communications—from TV and radio to village chiefs and town criers—were mobilized to ensure that people were aware of the ongoing campaign and to stop the spread of misinformation.

With this innovative approach, Benin has led the way in protecting its population of over 14 million from malaria despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Produced in collaboration with

The Alliance for
Malaria Prevention

 **The Global Fund**


CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES



MINISTÈRE DE LA SANTÉ
RÉPUBLIQUE DU BÉNIN



**World Health
Organization**