

# Policy, People, Resources: Why Some Countries Have Scaled Up School Based Distribution, Why Others Have Not, and Subsequent Recommendations



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February 6, 2023



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# Presentation Outline

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*December 2020 Ghana School-Based Distribution. Photo Credit: Prince Owusu*



# Background

- A number of National Malaria Programs have conducted pilots to inform their scale-up of Continuous Distribution channels.
- ITN School-based distribution (SBD) channels have been piloted by several National Malaria Programs (NMPs).
- To explore how countries determine whether or not to scale up SBD following pilot trials, VectorLink conducted interviews with NMPs, implementing partners, donors and global experts.
- The countries were divided into those which have scaled up, those which have piloted and those which are considering piloting.





# General Objectives

The study aimed to explore how countries determine whether or not to scale up SBD following pilots and provide recommendations for National Malaria Programs (NMPs), implementing partners, and donors.



*Elizabeth with her net, Zambia 2016  
SBD in Luapula. Photo Credit: Evans  
Mwape*



# Methodology

1. 30 Key informant interviews (KIIs) with NMP, Ministry of Education (MOE), donors, logistics and implementing partners, and research organizations
2. Analysis with Dedoose
  - Recordings were transcribed using two online transcription services.
  - Reports were compared between team members to identify emerging themes and subthemes.



# Key Results – Country Set A, B & C

- SBD can add to the pool of nets in the household and pupils can be “change agents.”
  - Improper use of nets is a challenge and educating children through SBD can help address it.
- Some groups are not included in SBDs (e.g., the elderly and houses without schoolchildren) and should not be forgotten
- Some people think that the net is for the pupil and not the other members of the household.
- Lack of resources for both ITNs and implementation
  - SBDs are “niche players” and “third in line” when it comes to receiving financial support in comparison to mass campaigns and routine distribution.



# Key Results – Country Set A, B & C

- Lack of donor partner commitment for SBD
  - Donor partner commitment was said to be lacking for SBD. PMI was recognized to be the most engaged partner regarding the financing of CD in general, including routine distribution.
- Inadequate planning and implementation at scale for SBD
  - SBD is not considered in planning activities.
  - SBD pilot or small-scale implementation was only occurring where nets were left over from other interventions.
- Existing stakeholder commitment in the country and/or well-established malaria project were key factors for program success.

# Quotes

*“It doesn't make sense just to do sort of a pilot if there's not an attempt to roll it out at a national or sub national level. And so just ensuring at the onset that all stakeholders understand what it is, what it entails, and are committed, if it makes sense in their country to achieve their coverage levels, to commit to it because it does require inputs” (Participant 15G).*

*...show the channels were comparable, that is mass distribution, and school distribution. And that considering the fact that you don't have to put so many nets out there to school distribution, and the operations are not as endless, laborious, as mass distribution, because you are using existing channels” (Participant 16G).*



*July 2022 Ghana School-Based Distribution. Nana Baah Forson, Municipal SHEP, Nsawam Adoagyiri district, and Dr. Jane Miller. Photo Credit: Prince Owusu*





# Quotes

*“[Parents] tend to have a lot of pressure from their kids to use nets. The children themselves are serious advocates for us because they really do believe the things they are taught in class. And so we leverage on that and make sure the whole message is pushed across within the community” (Participant 21A).*

*And the annual distributions of SBD nets into families with school children, especially at the primary school level, where school enrolment is high, is just a powerful channel to get a lot of nets into a lot of families at one sort of physical location in the community” (Participant 14G).*



# Conclusion

**Figure 1: Policy, People, and Resources Available for Each Country Set**

Country Group	Policy	People	Resources
A	Fully available	Fully available	Fully available
B	Fully available	Partially Available	Partially Available
C	Fully available	Partially Available	Not available

**Note:** Full report is available at [Continousdistribution.org](https://Continousdistribution.org) and [PMI VectorLink.org](https://PMIVectorLink.org)



# Recommendations

- Pilots should not be undertaken without a clear pathway to scale-up.
- Consider leveraging a Project or NGO/INGO type of organization to accelerate start-up.
- Promote CD more effectively.
- Ensure appropriate quantification for SBD and other channels (one size does not fit all).
- Consider how to reach those who are ineligible for SBD.
- Review the eligibility of teachers to receive a net.
- Use experts from scaled-up countries to provide technical assistance.



The PMI VectorLink team thanks the 30 interviewees who shared so generously their time and insights.

This work was supported by USAID

Thank you very much! Asante Sana!  
Merci Beaucoup! Medesay! Zikomo!



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