School-based Distribution: Liberia’s experience

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Outline

- Background
- Overview of School Base Distribution
- School Base Distribution Partners
- Results and Lessons learn
- Policy, People & Resources Recommendations: Liberia’s experience
- Going beyond the pilot: Expanding School-based Distribution
- Next steps
Malaria is endemic with all year-round transmission.

Malaria prevalence of 45% (by mRDT) in 2016

Insecticide treated net is the main thrust of vector control

National Malaria Strategic Plan 2021-2025:
- Ensure 80% of the population is protected by malaria preventive measures

Nets distribution strategies:
- Mass campaign
- Routine channels: Antenatal care, EPI, post delivery, and schools

Mass campaign (with pyrethroid nets) in 2018
- ITN access ranges from 26% in Montserrado to 53% in Grand Gedeh (DHS 2020)
High pyrethroid resistance reported across the country

Susceptibility to chlorfenapyr reported from sentinel sites

Country-led decision to deploy Interceptor G2 for mass campaign and routine distribution

Liberia continues entomology monitoring including durability monitoring of new nets

Mass campaign conducted in April 2021
  - National coverage of 95%

Awaiting data from MIS 2022 to determine ITN access.
School-based Distribution: Overview

- School ITN Distribution Strategy
  - Draft strategy developed in 2021
  - Finalized & validated in August 2022
  - Target Grades 1, 5 and 9; Teachers and School Coordinators
  - Deploy IG2 nets
- Pilot implementation from Nov 2021 – Feb 2022
  - Targeted 137 schools in Montserrado county
- Multi-partner approach for:
  - Planning & Coordination
  - Distribution & Monitoring
  - Social behavior change (SBC)
## School-based Distribution Pilot: Partners

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>NMCP</td>
<td>Leadership, coordination between IPs &amp; supervision of the SBD</td>
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<td>PMI</td>
<td>ITNs &amp; implementation funding, implementing partner coordination &amp; distribution monitoring</td>
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<td>Ministry of Education (School Health Division)</td>
<td>Supported coordination, between County Education Teams and NMCP. Provided school enrollment data to inform ITN allocation, monitored distribution process</td>
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<tr>
<td>Read Liberia*</td>
<td>SBD Implementer, led issuing of ITNs, recorded data</td>
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<td>Breakthrough Action * &amp; MOH (Health Promotion Division)</td>
<td>Provided malaria-related health education messages and materials (i.e. Student Pledge, ITN brochure, and posters)</td>
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<td>GHSC-PSM*</td>
<td>Provided transportation of ITNs to prepositioning schools</td>
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<td>School Administration</td>
<td>Vice Principal of Instruction, School coordinators, and Class Sponsors lead School Level SBC Orientation &amp; ITN distribution to students</td>
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<td>Parent Teacher Association</td>
<td>Supported SBC activities in PTA meetings</td>
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<td>County Health Teams</td>
<td>Monitored distribution process and assisted in storing ITNs</td>
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School-based Distribution Pilot: Results & Lessons Learned

Results:
- Reached 124 out of 137 schools (90%)
- Distributed ITNs to 45,801 students & 2,527 to teachers

Lessons Learned:
- Difficulty in obtaining school enrollment data centrally -> engaged school coordinators to get counts of students for distribution
- On-site supervision and daily partner coordination addresses delays
- Picking up nets from the Central Medical Store on the day of the distribution delayed delivery to schools -> revised the strategy to use temporary storage hubs working closely with the County Health Teams
- Involvement of PTAs & school authorities as school coordinators helped clarify myths on bed net use

Transporting IG2 ITNs to hard-to-reach schools using Liberia’s ‘Make it red’

Photo credit: Chrispin Williams
## Policy, People & Resources Recommendations: Liberia’s experience

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<tr>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Liberia experience</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pilot should not be undertaken without a clear pathway to scale-up</td>
<td>PMI commitment to support SBD scale-up</td>
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<td>Involve a project or NGO/INGO to accelerate start-up</td>
<td>Engaged Read Liberia as an implementer,</td>
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<td>Promote continuous distribution more effectively (as potential alternative to mass campaigns)</td>
<td>Need to collect information on SBD scaling (and ANC and EPI distribution) to determine effectiveness, at least in specific counties</td>
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<td>Ensure appropriate quantification for SBD and other channels</td>
<td>Had challenges getting enrollment information from MOE; partnering with READ Liberia coaches &amp; school coordinators to provide enrollment prior to distribution during the pilot.</td>
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<td>Rethink SBD and how to reach those who are ineligible</td>
<td>Needs further consideration as part of scaling</td>
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<td>Review eligibility of teachers to receive a net</td>
<td>All teachers received a net during pilot; changing to single teacher sponsor per class &amp; school coordinator in scale-up.</td>
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<td>Use experts from scaled-up countries to provide technical assistance.</td>
<td>Liberia needs more technical assistance in this area</td>
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Going beyond the pilot: Expanding School-based Distribution

SBD Strategy for scaling up

- SBD Distribution ongoing: Dec 2022 – April 2023
- Prioritizing two counties (Bong & Nimba) with high school enrollment and low ITN access
- Working directly with the County Health and Education Teams
- Selecting grades 1st, 5th and 9th from eligible schools (i.e. those with at least 2 education levels)
- Costing implementation to inform future expansion

Remaining Challenges:

- Funding
- Limited field staff for monitoring and supervision
- Need for TA for guidance
Next Steps

- Coordinate with MOE and partners to resume distribution, planning around school calendar
- Continue SBC orientation in remaining districts within counties
- Identify & engage technical assistance from experts with SBD scale-up experience (in-person or virtual support)
  - Methods for accurate school enrollment data
  - Reaching ineligible schools & populations
  - Advocacy for scale-up for continuous distribution methods
Special Thanks to our partners:

PMI USAID
Read Liberia
Breakthrough Action
GHSC-PSM (Chemonics)

Ministry of Education,
National Malaria Control Program
Health Promotion Division (MOH)
County Health Teams
County Education Teams

Thank You for Listening