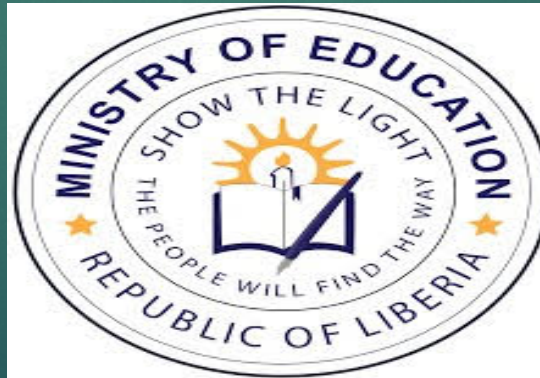


School-based Distribution: Liberia's experience

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MINISTRY OF HEALTH
Republic of Liberia



PMI

U.S. PRESIDENT'S
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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**

Students receive ITNs during pilot, Rebecca Wilson School

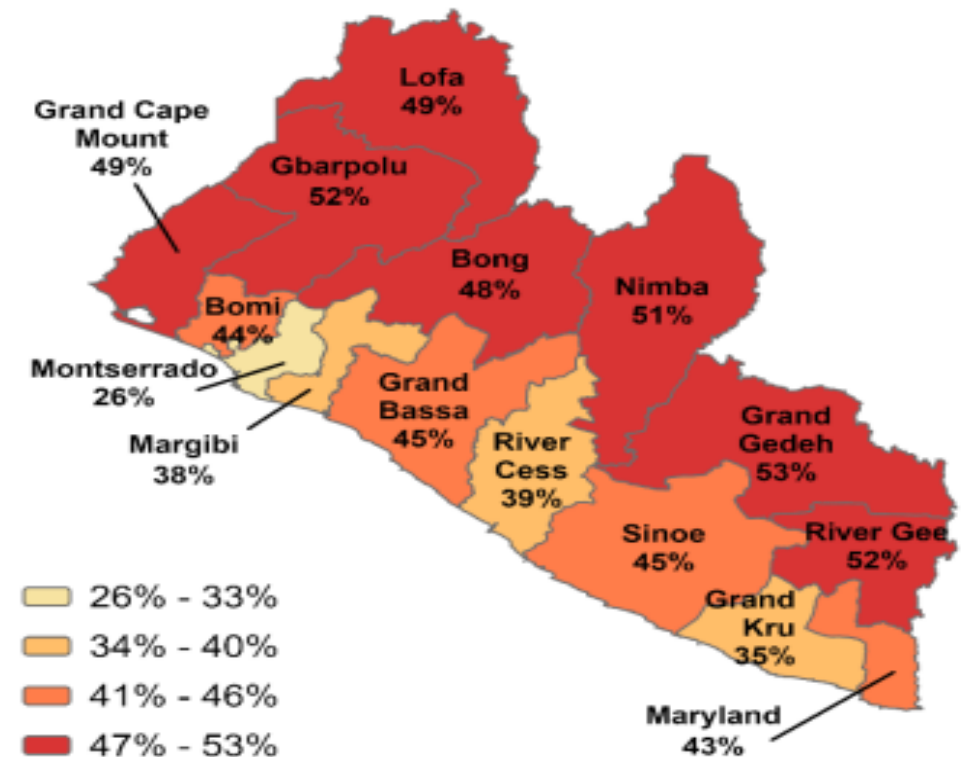


Photo credit: Chrispin Williams

Background

- ▶ 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)

ITN access, DHS 2020

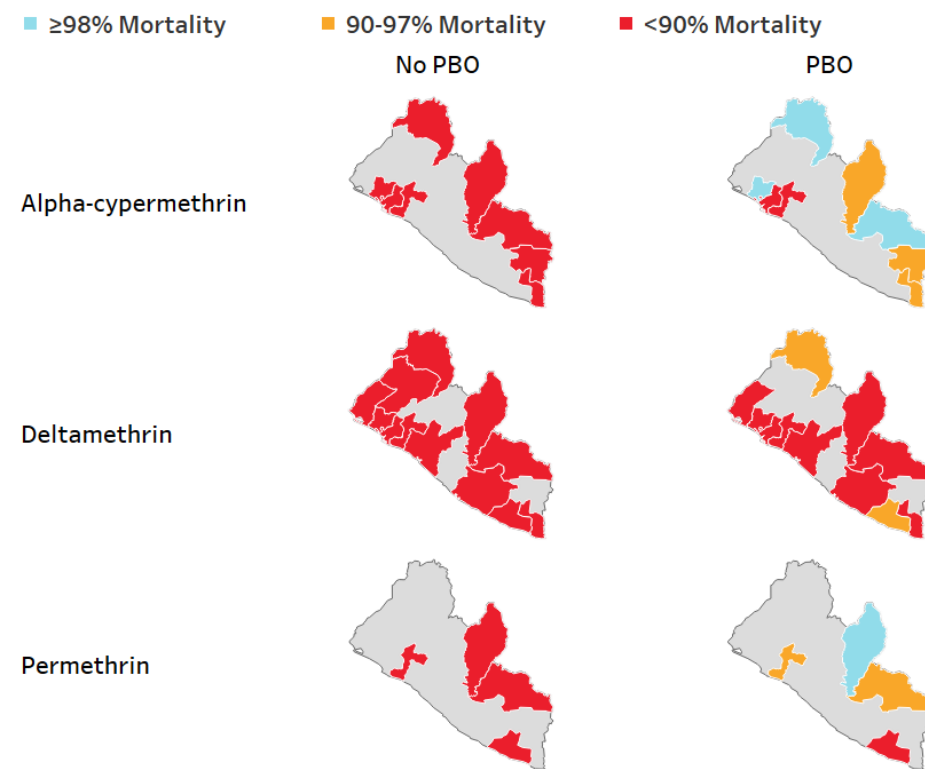


Source: DHS 2020

Background continue

- ▶ 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.

An. gambiae s.l. insecticide susceptibility, 2018-2021



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

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

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

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

Going beyond the pilot: Expanding School-based Distribution

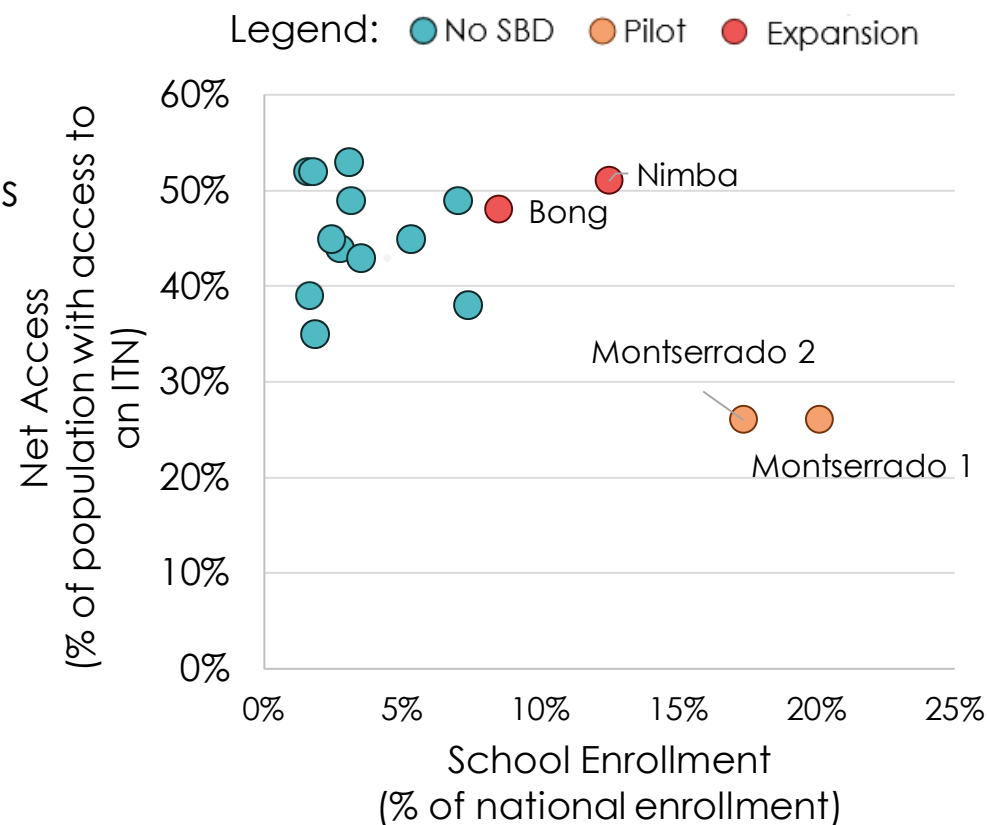
SBD Strategy for scaling up

- ▶ 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

Counties by school enrollment and net access



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

**Fifth grade class receives IG2 ITNs,
Mission International School**



Photo credit: Chrispin Williams



Special Thanks to our partners:

PMI USAID	Ministry of Education,
Read Liberia	National Malaria Control Program
Breakthrough Action	Health Promotion Division (MOH)
GHSC-PSM(Chemonics)	County Health Teams
	County Education Teams

Thank You for Listening