The Tanzania School Net Net Programme:
Eight Years of Experience
January 30 2019 VCWG LLIN priorities workstream meeting
Development and Planning

2011 Tanzania convened nationwide stakeholder meetings to develop a national plan for keep-up of LLIN coverage

• Resulted in selection of School Net Distribution on top of TNVS as distribution strategy
• Pilot Program to be implemented in Southern Zone (Three regions (Mtwara, Ruvuma, Lindi))
• Program Started in 2013 School year, nearly 3 years after the previous mass campaign
Projected Costs and Coverage

- NetCALC combined with existing economic data, and coverage information from Tanzania was used to project the costs and coverage of alternative strategies.
- Project coverage would stabilize around 80% with a combination of TNVS and sensibly designed School Net Programme.
- Predicted cost of program (combined) at ~6.87 USD per net (2012 USD).

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TNVS + Limited School Voucher</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>65.4</td>
<td>$449</td>
<td>$6.87</td>
<td>$1.34</td>
<td>2.7</td>
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<td>TNVS + Large School Voucher</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>86.9</td>
<td>$597</td>
<td>$6.87</td>
<td>$1.57</td>
<td>37.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commercial Subsidized TNVS</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>80.0</td>
<td>$326</td>
<td>$6.87</td>
<td>$1.29</td>
<td>2.2</td>
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Graph showing LLIN use and distribution over time.
Operational Deployment

• The meetings and subsequent results became the School Net Programme which began as a large pilot in the southern Zone

• Nets deployed as part of SNP each year (slightly different target classes)

• TNVS ended in 2014 and no significant ANC/EPI distribution until 2017/18
• Five SNP distributions complete (two major geographic expansion)
• Four rounds of evaluation surveys
• Start of ANC EPI distribution in 2017/18
Operational Challenges (and some solutions)

- End of TNVS (Start free ANC/EPI)
- Lots (and Lots) of distribution points (turns out there are many, many more schools than Health centers of just about anything else) (1,919 in the southern Zone alone) – 9,535 by expansion in 2017
- Low enrollment in secondary school – so focus on primary schools
- Missing demographic groups
Results: Coverage

- Coverage varies over time and by indicator
- Coverage improving over time in Southern Zone or stable
Results: coverage and use

Net sharing

- Sharing low but increasing with time and coverage
- Proportion of eligible households for SNP ~50%, people in eligible households slightly higher

Eligibility, share of nets, those missed and reach

- Households getting a SNP net higher than eligible
- Cumulative proportion much higher than currently eligible (sharing + cohort effects)
Results: Cost

Originally projected at 6.87 financial cost per net in 2012 USD

Measurements show cost was much lower (~4.19 in 2016 USD weighted mean)
Best laid plans...

• Cost projections – we were on the high end
  – This is good in the sense that led to considerable savings compared to projection
  – Much of savings (compared to projection and over time) is from declining prices of nets, but also from operational streamlining

• Coverage – Lower than projected
  – Delayed start till too long after UCC
  – Closing of TNVS and delayed start of ANC
  – Imperfect projection and retention models
    • Optimistic net life estimates
More best laid plans...

- Logistics
  - Delivery to 9,000+ schools requires significant logistics capacity, tracking, accountability/monitoring.
  - Local commercial logistics company improved process considerably
  - Effectively a yearly mini-mass campaign. Extremely challenging for a public sector supply chain.
  - ANC/EPI on a roll now
  - Expansion
Discussion

• How well did NetCALC work...
  – Should we plan based on coverage targets or use targets?
  – Getting good attrition estimates key to projecting coverage
  – Can’t plan for exogenous shocks – political turmoil, unplanned withdraw of funding for program (closing of TNVS etc...)

• Cost planning rough and dirty worked OK, but estimates were way off the real costs in terms of total dollars.
  – These were done with no data on School Programs at the time of projection because there were none.
Conclusions

• School Net Distribution can maintain coverage over time in TZ
• It comes at a reasonable cost once learning curve is overcome
• School enrollment is key and no way to avoid careful assessment and consideration.
Acknowledgements

• To many to name all
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