



President's Malaria Initiative

Net Distribution: Nimba County

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In May and June of 2009, EQUIP worked with the Nimba County Health Team, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of Liberia, the National Malaria Control Program, USAID/DELIVER and JSI, on the USAID President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) net distribution across Nimba County, Liberia.

EQUIP staff and community health volunteers distributed over 180,000 Insecticide Treated Nets (ITN's) to communities in all six districts of Nimba County, often transporting the heavy bales of nets by foot or even canoe where roads were impassable.



The distribution of three nets to each household was in itself a monumental step in the right direction, but the EQUIP team added value by working hard to ensure nets were properly hung in homes, and information and education regarding the net use was given at each house. EQUIP continues to follow-up with the communities through it's vast network of Regional Supervisors and Community

Health Ambassadors, sensitizing families on the dangers of malaria and how to prevent and treat it. Malaria is the number one killer in Liberia, where pregnant women and children under 5 are at the highest risk of contracting this dangerous disease. Malaria causes pre-term birth and anemia in pregnant women, low birth weight in newborns, death

in young children, and serious illness in caregivers and income earners, thus eroding and traumatizing the social fabric of many families across Liberia and Africa. The malaria carrying (female anopheles) mosquitoes usually bite from sunset to sunrise, and nets, which are hung above beds and tucked under mattresses, provide a critical source of protection during these sleeping hours. Insecticide Treated Nets are the most effective tool to putting a stop to this widespread and life-threatening disease that is not only curable, (using ACT, provided at the 22 EQUIP-supported clinics) but also preventable. Net distribution campaigns, such as the one EQUIP participated in, reduce cases of malaria - letting families get back to the business of living.



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