

What is the Under Five Catch Up Campaign?

The Under Five Catch Up Campaign (U5CC) is a one-time free distribution of Long Lasting Insecticide-treated Nets (LLINs) to children under the age of five years in all regions of mainland Tanzania combined with a mass re-treatment campaign for conventional mosquito nets.



Who is funding the campaign?

The U5CC is jointly funded by The Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria, The World Bank and the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) through USAID.

Who are the key campaign partners?

The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare conducts overall program management however civil society organizations have been contracted for specific campaign components. MEDA Economic Development Associates organizes the distribution of the LLINs and facilitates issuing of the LLINs to under-fives. World Vision Tanzania is responsible for training of all campaign stakeholders, including local government. Population Services International is responsible for behavior change communication. Local government stakeholders at the district, ward and village levels are the implementers of the campaign activities.

What is the future of the Tanzania National Voucher Scheme (TNVS)?

The mass distribution of LLINs provides the "catch up" needed to increase coverage; however the Tanzania National Voucher Scheme (TNVS) will provide the "keep up" required in order to maintain that high coverage. Pregnant women and infants will continue to receive vouchers at RCH centres for conventional mosquito nets during the campaign, however in 2009, the voucher will be upgraded. This means that the voucher value will change to allow for the purchase of an LLIN, and the top up will be fixed at Tsh. 500.

The Under Five Catch Up Campaign (U5CC) Project Profile

When will the campaign take place?

The campaign occurs in three stages:

1. LLIN Issuing in Tanga Region as part of the Integrated Measles Campaign on August 30th, 31st and September 1st 2008,
2. A pilot in Mpanda District of Rukwa region in September/October 2008,
3. A staggered zonal roll out, with LLIN issuing and net re-treatment occurring in one zone per month starting between January and September 2009.

How do the bed nets get to the villages?

A to Z Textile Mills, the manufacturer of the LLINs with operations based in Arusha, Tanzania, delivers the LLINs to each village in bales of 40 pieces. The actual quantities delivered to each village are based on the requirement as is reported after the registration of under-fives. A to Z is responsible for storage and security of the LLINs until they reach the village at which time they are handed over to the Village Executive Officer (VEO) who then assumes responsibility for the LLINs.

How will the bed nets be given out?

On one of the designated "issuing days" in the village, parents/caregivers bring their under-fives to the issuing point closest to their home (usually a school or a health facility). Issuing takes place over a course of three days in the village so as to allow for all eligible children to get their LLINs. The parent/caregiver submits the eligibility card that they received during registration, signs the register book, and receives the LLIN. The finger of the child is marked with ink to confirm that he/she has received their net.

How will leakage and misuse of bed nets be prevented?

Once LLINs are delivered to the village, the village leader signs and stamps a proof of delivery document and the nets put into a secure storage facility. LLINs will spend a short time in storage as to mitigate the risk of theft at that level. The issuing of LLINs to the intended beneficiaries is closely monitored by local government to ensure that only children with eligibility cards who are registered receive LLINs. Any child who was not registered in advance must obtain permission from local leaders in order to receive a net. In addition, LLIN packaging will have special markings identifying the LLINs as "not for sale" as to deter sales of the campaign nets.

Why a catch up campaign?

In 2004/5, only 16% of Tanzanian children under five slept under ITNs and today, thanks to various interventions including the Tanzania National Voucher Scheme (TNVS), 26% of under-fives sleep under ITNs. While this increase is encouraging, the coverage is not high enough nor is it increasing fast enough, and malaria still remains the main cause of death for children under five. The goal of the U5CC is to rapidly increase coverage from 26% to 80% or higher among this vulnerable group thus reducing instances of malaria in the country.

What type of bed nets will the children be receiving?

As per the decision of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Olyset® LLINs are the official LLIN of the U5CC. An Olyset LLIN is made from polyethylene and is impregnated with permethrin so it does not require retreatment for five years. All U5CC bed nets are identical: rectangular, light blue in color and with dimensions of 4 x 6 x 7 feet.

How is the target group identified?

All children under five are recorded by village-based volunteers in a week long door to door registration six to eight weeks before the LLINs are to be issued. Upon registration, each child will be given an eligibility card with a unique number and details of the location of the LLIN issuing point. The Village and Ward Executive Officers summarize the data collected in the villages and submit to the district authorities. The summary data is then used to place the LLIN order to the manufacturer.



For more information contact:

MEDA Economic Development Associates
Plot 386, Toure Drive, Masaki
P.O. Box 10817, Dar es Salaam
Tel: (255) 22 260 1822, 260 1830
Fax: (255) 22 260 1851
Email: medatz@tz.meda.org
Web: www.meda.org