

Report on the distribution of Long Lasting Insecticide Treated Nets (LLINs) and hang-up campaign, Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement February – April, 2016



Trainers demonstrating to Village Health Teams on how to hang up a mosquito net during training on LLINs and hang-up campaign

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Introduction

The United States President's Malaria Initiative, led by the U.S. Agency for International Development donated more than a quarter of a million treated mosquito nets for people living in refugee settlements in Uganda.

Malaria continues to be the leading cause of death amongst people living in refugee-hosting districts. Therefore, long-lasting treated nets that were distributed to refugees are expected to protect thousands of refugees from malaria and other mosquito-borne diseases, since the best way to bring down deaths from malaria is to prevent people from catching malaria.

From the donation, Kiryandongo refugee settlement received a total of 21,000 treated nets that were distributed to 6,789 refugee households against a target of 12,000 households. And it was in Kiryandongo that the national launch of the project was held on March 15. Pre-distribution activities were held to increase community away on malaria prevention and control.

A total of 105 Village Health Teams (VHTs) from the refugee community received training in how to hang mosquito nets and communicate essential messages on the dangers of malaria, the benefits of sleeping under mosquito nets and the care of the nets. The training was conducted by Kiryandongo district malaria prevention and control trainers.

Dialogues were held in schools to increase awareness on malaria prevention. Still in schools, drawing competition on malaria prevention and control was organized in the six primary schools and 01 secondary school in the settlement were learners participated by drawing and exhibiting their works on how they can prevent malaria in their homes and the general community.



A drawing by one of the pupils at Arnold primary school

Also, 02 radio talk shows were held on *VCC103.6 FM* in Kiryandongo were key messages on malaria prevention were passed on by representatives from district health team officials and representative s of the refugee leaders.

Within the community drama performances were staged by 02 refugee community groups. The aim was to challenge community practices and attitudes on the misuse of mosquito nets in ways such as using the nets as weeding and shelter construction materials, and at nursery bed when raising seeds. Also, performances created awareness on the proper use and care for the nets.



Chairperson, Refuge Welfare Council Mr. Manyok Joseph and others in VCC FM Radio studio

Mode of distribution

Much as the earlier plan was to distribute the nets using the household to household strategy, at field level an agreement was reached with the Office the Prime Minister (OPM), UNHCR, RMF and Ministry of Health malaria consortium representative to do general distribution of nets and thereafter hang-up campaign and mop exercise in the refugee community. All the phases were duly supported by the village health teams, community health Assistant and the programme officer from RMF, Office the Prime Minister (OPM) and UNHCR field staffs and other development actor throughout the exercise. The distribution of nets commenced on March 16 and ended on March 31

The hang-up campaign begun on April 4 and it is ongoing within the refugee community. Still the exercise is being led by Village Health Teams (VHTs).



Refugee community members about to receive mosquito nets



Distribution of treated nets by VHTs at Magamaga distribution Centre

Results

A total of **21,000** treated nets were received and distributed to **6,789** households against a target of **12,000** households. At the writing of this report 2863 households had been reached by VHTs in the mosquito hang-up campaign and **4698** nets have been hanged-up.

Challenges

- Most of refugee are settled where they located by OPM thus affecting distribution plans
- Other competition activities such as GFD and refugee verification exercise
- Some refugees sold off the nets

Recommendation

- There is need for more treated nets to be distributed to refugees that missed out.
- RMF to continue with community sanitization on malaria prevention and use of LLINs