



# NATnets *news*

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## Universal Coverage Campaign kicks off

The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW) has commenced distribution of the Long Lasting Insecticides Treated Bed Nets (LLINs) to all households in the country. The exercise has started in Ruvuma, Mtwara and Lindi Regions.

This exercise, popularly known as the Universal Coverage Campaign (UCC), aims at covering sleeping spaces in all households in Tanzania Mainland that were not covered by the Underfive Catch Up Campaign and the Tanzania National Voucher Scheme (TNVS), popularly known as Hati Punguzo.

In the Underfive Catch Up Campaign that was completed in Dar es Salaam Region in May, 2010, all children under the age of five years were provided with an LLIN that would protect them against anopheles mosquitoes that cause malaria. In that campaign, a total of 8,753,438 bed nets were distributed to the underfive children in Tanzania Mainland.

The Underfive Catch Up Campaign complemented the Tanzania National Voucher Scheme. Mothers of infants and pregnant women redeem the vouchers at a retail shop at a subsidized price of Tshs. 500/=.

Despite the Underfive Catch Up Campaign and the TNVS programme, a good number of Tanzanians sleep without mosquito nets, due to various reasons including poverty. It is under this condition that the Universal Coverage was designed to cover all sleeping spaces which were not covered by the underfive catch up campaign and through the TNVS programme.

It is expected that a total of 14.6 million nets will be distributed free to all members of the households in the country by the end of this campaign.

## Swiss Professor salutes Tanzania on the campaigns against malaria interventions



The Wunderlins listen to Dr. Alex Mwita, Programme Manager for the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) (not in picture), when they visited the office recently.

The Swiss couple, Prof. Christian and Esther Wunderlin were excited by the extra-ordinary efforts that are taken by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to scale up net ownership and usage to pregnant women and underfive children in the country.

“The voucher system looks vibrant in the devoid of proper infrastructure and logistics. It is safe, effective and impressive”, said Prof. Christian Wunderlin. He said that what he saw proved that every penny donated by

the Swiss people is used effectively to protect the lives of people in Tanzania.

During their visit in Tanzania, the Wunderlins were given a tour to the whole process of the Tanzania Voucher Scheme.

They toured a clinic where vouchers are given to pregnant women, and also retail shops where they redeem the vouchers. They then visited Mennonite Economic and Development Associates (MEDA), who are logistic contractors for the Tanzania Voucher Scheme (TNVS).

*(continues on page 2)*



Tanzania National Voucher Scheme



United Republic of Tanzania



National Malaria Control Programme

## Editor's Note

Welcome to the 12th edition of the Natnets News. This issue focuses on the past and current activities that are underway towards accelerating the achievements of the Abuja ITN coverage targets.

To begin with, we bring you two remarkable developments in the fight against malaria in the country. First is the completion of the underfive catch up campaign that ended in May this year. With the successful completion of that campaign, malaria incidents will go down, hence reducing morbidity and mortality among out-patients and in-patients admissions.

We also wish to share with you on the commencement of the Universal Coverage Campaign. This campaign puts Tanzania at the apex in the fight against malaria using ITNs as one among the interventions.

This edition will also provide you with a summary on the combined efforts that Tanzania has adopted to accelerate ITN coverage, and hence achieve the declaration of the ITN targets. Dr. Alex Mwita, Programme Manager of the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) sums up on the success and challenges of the U5CC, and how the experience will be used to achieve the Universal Coverage Campaign.

I welcome you to read on. Karibu!

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## Swiss couple salutes malaria campaigns

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MEDA is also a logistic contractor for the Universal Coverage Campaign (UCC).

The Ministry is implementing the voucher scheme through the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) in collaboration with partners. Under this programme, pregnant women who visit the clinic for the first time, and children below the age of one year are provided with the vouchers that enable them to redeem the Long Lasting Insecticide Treated Net (LLIN) by paying at a subsidized cost of Tshs. 500/=.

These nets are found in retail shops all over Tanzania Mainland. In May this year, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW) in collaboration with other partners completed the distribution of 8,753,438 LLINs to all children under the age of 5 years in Tanzania Mainland. This has been followed by the Universal Coverage Campaign that aims at covering all uncovered sleeping spaces in a bid to protect household members from malaria.

Speaking at the brief meeting with the Wunderlins, Dr. Alex Mwita, Programme Manager for NMCP said that advancement in social and economic development will help to eliminate malaria in the country. "Improvement in housing will lead to a situation where mosquitoes will find it difficult to penetrate". He said that ITNs is one of the preventive measures that is in

place together with other interventions. He mentioned other interventions as the use of Indoor Residual Spray (IRS), and Intermittent Presumptive Treatment in Pregnancy (IpTp).

Last December, the popular Swiss radio station DRS3 organised a country-wide awareness and fund raising campaign in that country to help in the fight against malaria, under the motto "Every penny counts". The format consisted in broadcasting music and thematic features around the clock during a whole week, from a temporary radio studio in front of the Swiss Parliament building.

People from all walks of life were invited to come to the studio and deposit their donations, which ultimately added up to a total amount of CHF 7 million, to be channelled through Swiss NGOs to anti-malaria projects in Africa.

Apart from voluntary donations, people were also invited to bid for special treats and projects. It is in this context that the Swiss Minister of Foreign Affairs offered to auction a trip for two to obtain an "Insight into the work of the Swiss Embassy in Tanzania".

The highest bidders were a Prof. and Mrs. Christian Wunderlin from Basel/Switzerland. Prof. and Mrs. Wunderlin would convey the progress of the on going malaria intervention programmes to their countrymen back in Switzerland.

## PSI Tanzania staff wins OBE

Dr. Jane Miller, the Director for Maternal and Child Health Programs and Initiatives with Population Services International (PSI-Tanzania), has been awarded an Order of British Empire (OBE) following her tireless research and jobs in a bid to eliminate malaria in Tanzania. The OBE Award is the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire that a civilian in Great Britain can obtain, short of being knighted. There are five levels and this one is the fourth from the top.

Dr Jane received the



Dr. Jane Miller

award in London before Queen's Elizabeth the second, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2010, at the Queen's birthday honors this year.

Speaking about the award, Dr. Jane said she is very proud to receive the dream award and being the first person in her family to have ever dominated and win such kind of award.

"I am very proud of myself, my parents and the whole family. Since I was very young, I kept on hearing about it and to have actually received it now makes a very special part of

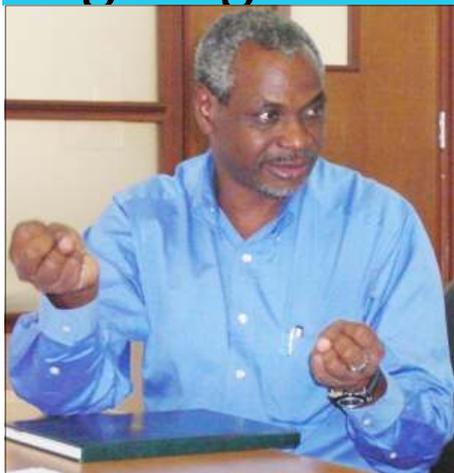
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# Linking the TNVS Interventions for Malaria Prevention ... ..

The Tanzania National Voucher Scheme (TNVS) is an initiative of Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and its Partners, committed to the goal of reducing malaria related morbidity and mortality by at least 80% by year 2013. The objective of TNVS is to protect the groups most vulnerable to malaria (pregnant women and under-five children) by increasing their access to insecticide treated bed nets (ITNs) at a highly subsidised price.

This is done using a set of interventions which include the Pregnant Woman Voucher, Infant Voucher, Universal Coverage Campaign and the Keep-up Strategy, which cuts across all the initiatives. These initiatives primarily focus on increasing access, affordability and use of ITNs among the groups most vulnerable to malaria. These interventions interlink and therefore complement each other towards realization of the overall objective of TNVS. Thus, in this section, we profile the initiatives by highlighting their individual objectives and linkages in addressing the issues of accessibility, affordability and coverage ITN use among the groups most vulnerable to malaria.

## Fight against Malaria intensifies



Dr. Alex Mwita

The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare has started to implement the distribution of nets to households that covers the whole of the sleeping spaces that have not been covered by the Underfive Catch Up Campaign, and through the Tanzania National Voucher Scheme Programme (TNVS). This follows the Global Fund (Round 8) Malaria Grant that was signed in Geneva, Switzerland. We spoke to Dr. Alex Mwita, Programme Manager for National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) on the successes of the just ended Underfive Catch Up Campaign and the current implementation of the Universal Coverage Campaign.

**Q. What can stakeholders learn from the just ended U5CC?**

The excellent inter-ministerial collaboration enabled the distribution of LLINs at village level. The mechanism used to distribute the LLINs involved the public and private sector to ensure that training, sensitization and all logistical aspects are well managed. The model which was set can be replicated by any other programme for effective and efficient delivery of services or products.

**Q. What are some of the successes of the U5CC?**

It is evident that all eligible under-five children in mainland Tanzania accessed free LLINs. The target is to reach at least 80% coverage.

**Q. How will you overcome the challenges of the U5CC during the implementation of UCC?**

The U5CC has set a good ground for implementation of UCC. All parties involved have the experience and are aware of what they should do. The lessons learnt from the U5CC have been very instrumental in the transition to UCC. UCC is much more challenging but the teams involved are well prepared to ensure that the campaign succeeds.

**The lessons learnt from the Under Five Catch Up Campaign (U5CC) have been very instrumental in the transition to Universal Coverage Campaign (UCC)**

**Q. What plans are there to address the choice on the size of nets during the**

**implementation of the Universal Coverage Campaign?**

Practically, it is not feasible to have different sizes of nets in this mass campaign. The size of nets will still be 4 x 6 x 7.

**Q. What results are expected after the completion of the UCC?**

After the UCC, it is expected that 14.6 million LLINs will be distributed. This implies that approximately 23.3 million LLINs will be available in the households.

## Meeting the ITN targets

The implementation of the Universal Coverage Campaign that has started in the Southern Zone, covering three regions of Ruvuma, Lindi and Mtwara. This national campaign that aims at covering all sleeping spaces that were not covered in the Under-five Catch Up Campaign, hence scaling up the ITN coverage to more than 80%.

Coverage of ITN has been rapidly expanded by directly providing free LLINs to all children under the age of five years and currently the distribution of free nets to covers the uncovered sleeping spaces in the households. Implementation of these measures guarantees that most of the nets in Tanzania mainland are treated and that a high coverage rate of treated nets is reached.

The implementation of the Universal Coverage Campaign will further extend protection to households by covering all sleeping spaces that were formerly not covered by the Under Five Catch up Campaign (U5CC) and through the Tanzania National Voucher Scheme (TNVS). At the end of this campaign, Tanzania expects to go beyond its goal of achieving 80% LLIN coverage national wide, reducing the burden of Malaria by 80% by end of 2013.



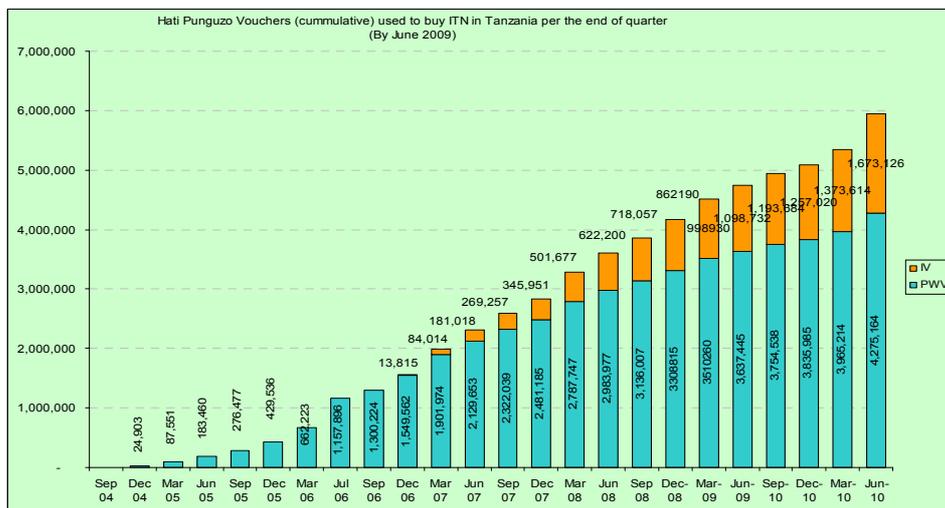
## Awareness on LLINs use increases

From program inception until June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010 a total of 4,275,164 pregnant women and 1,673,126 infants have redeemed a voucher for a net which means close to six million nets have already been issued. The cumulative redemption rate for PWV as of June 30<sup>th</sup> was 70.1% and for IV 57.9% (includes all vouchers regardless of voucher value). This is almost identical to May when redemption rates were 70.1% and 57.6% for PWV and IV respectively.

However the number of LLIN retailers recruited into TNVS by A-Z in June dropped significantly in June to 454 new recruits from May's number of 933. This brings the total from 4,482 to 4,946. Net sales for LLIN voucher nets in June totaled 141,907 up from 139,384 in May. Total LLIN sales since October 2009 are 709,062.

The U5CC exercise was finally graced by the issuing of LLIN in Dar es Salaam for the distribution that took place from May 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>. However the data on nets issued became available in June. In total, 556,213 U5s were registered and 636,629 nets were delivered. Of those nets, 615,875 nets were issued to children under five. Excess nets have been collected and stored at the DMO stores and PMI warehouse for possible use in the future.

Now that U5CC is finally over, ten field teams commenced UCC activities in Southern Zone (Lindi, Mtwara and Ruvuma) on June 20<sup>th</sup> in anticipation of the sleeping space registration exercise scheduled to commence July 5<sup>th</sup>. Registration coupons totaling 1,921,750 were delivered to that zone in late June and distributed to village level.



## DC urges WEOs to lead UCC

The District Commissioner (DC) Mr Xavery Maketa of Namtumbo District urged the Ward Executive Officers (WEOs) and Village Executive Officers (VEOs) of Namtumbo Division to implement what they are taught by World Vision facilitators to achieve the Universal Coverage Campaign (UCC) in the district.

Mr Xavery Maketa said this when he was officiating the training for the WEOs and VEOs at the end of June, which was prepared and facilitated by World Vision Tanzania at Namtumbo district.

The WVT are training contractors for the UCC which is implemented by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW) through the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP). The UCC aims at covering sleeping spaces to all households in the country. The campaign that has started by training and registration in the Southern Zone will soon be rolled out to other Zones in the country.

The aim of the training was to raise awareness about the Universal Coverage Campaign for the WEOs and VEOs and equip them with the knowledge on how the campaign will be implemented. WEOs and VEOs supervise the campaign from registration to the issuing of the Long Lasting Insecticides Treated Bed Nets (LLINs).

The DC warned that serious measures will be taken against those who will be found misusing the bed nets. "We will track all those who use the bed nets for other purposes and take legal actions against them", he said.

Before the WEOs/VEOs trainings at all Divisions, World Vision also conducted sensitization meetings for the Regional Health Management Team (RHMT) and Council Health Management Teams (CHMTs) for all districts of Ruvuma region. A total of 77 CHMT members and 685 DOs/WEOs/VEOs were trained in this exercise in Ruvuma region.

He said that WEOs and VEOs who will steal the nets will be punished. "Whoever will cheat during the issuing of LLINs will be punished", he warned.

## PSI Tanzania staff wins OBE

(from page 2)

my history," she noted.

"It is a total surprise to me, I did not expect to get it but it has energized me to work more and fight malaria till it is fully eliminated." Dr. Jane said since the news of her receiving the award was published in UK Times newspaper, they have been receiving congratulations from all parts of the world.

She said the award mean a lot to her and to PSI/Tanzania as it sends out a clear

message that her job and that of PSI - Tanzania is recognized and appreciated by the British Government and other reputable malaria institutions in the world.

She said that the fight against malaria in the country will receive more attention and concerted efforts through mobilization of funds that will lead to the elimination of the killer disease among the underfives and pregnant women.

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