

RBM Partnership
To End Malaria



Photography by PSI, South Sudan

Case study

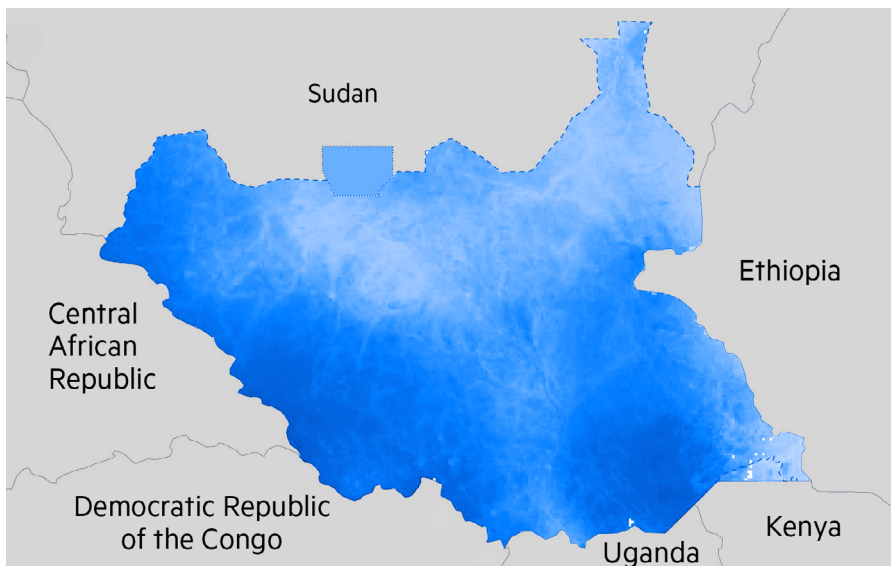
South Sudan

Challenges delivering malaria services are numerous in South Sudan—even when South Sudan and the world are not gripped by a global pandemic: severe and prolonged flooding, insecurity due to inter-tribal clashes, and hard-to-reach mobile communities. The sheer number of insecticide-treated nets (ITNs) required for a nationwide mass distribution introduces an additional strain on the health system.

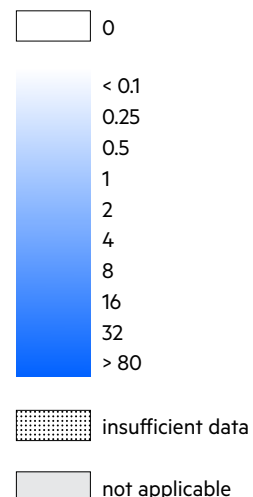
1 488 005
Reported confirmed cases

1 800 000
Estimated cases

6 100
Estimated deaths



PLASMODIUM FALCIPARUM (Pf)
PARASITE PREVALENCE (PP)



In March 2020, as COVID-19 was becoming wide-spread, the ITN mass distribution in NBeG State was launched, the first of six planned mass campaigns for 2020. Working with PSI, the National Malaria Control Program quickly adjusted the ITN mass distribution strategy and fully engaged local leaders to successfully implement the distribution without exposing communities to COVID-19. The NMCP focused on dynamic coordination and “real-time” adaptation of guidelines for implementation during the COVID-19 pandemic. The distribution of 983,704 ITNs in NBeG State was completed in June 2020, protecting over 1.9 million people.

South Sudan’s population is approximately 13.3 million people, all at risk for malaria. To successfully plan and implement the remaining planned mass distributions, the NMCP worked with the government’s COVID-19 taskforce, capitalized on lessons from NBeG State, and allowed flexibility to incorporate new guidance about COVID-19 transmission into campaign planning and implementation. The second and third mass distributions for 2020 in Lakes State (785,464 ITNs) and in Warrap State (893,944 ITNs) were completed in November and protected approximately 3.2 million people. The fourth planned mass distribution of 2020 in Eastern Equatoria State (approximately 828,263 ITNs), protecting approximately 1.6 million people, is 75% complete and will be finished by the end of January 2021.

Increased coordination, including at the community level; real-time adaptation of the distribution strategy using global and national COVID-19 guidance; clearly marked pedestrian flow at distribution sites, including chalk markings indicating safe distances; increased monitoring of physical distancing and hand hygiene; use of well-ventilated or outside spaces for planning and training activities; and creation of WhatsApp groups to share daily field updates are critical innovations that enable the successful implementation of three ITN mass campaigns during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, over 3.2 million ITNs have been distributed in South Sudan. The final two planned mass campaigns in the States of Upper Nile (approximately 735,100 ITNs) and Jonglei (approximately 1,126,126 ITNs) will be implemented in early 2021.



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Produced in collaboration with

