Purpose

• Since January 2012 various groups have been expressing concern about potential shortfalls of LLINs, and the lack of guidance to program managers on how to minimize damage from such shortfalls.

• WHO/GMP and NetWorks project assembled a team to explore developing the basis for such guidance.
Basic assumptions

• Universal Coverage with LLINs remains the goal of all RBM partners.
• The exercise was intended to provide epidemiologically-based advice to program managers and decision-makers on how to reduce to a minimum any potential additional disease burden from LLIN shortfalls.
A strategy for crisis mitigation

• Universal Coverage REMAINS the global goal for LLIN distribution.
• This discussion is intended to provide thoughtful guidance to decision-makers on how to manage a shortage of LLINs in a campaign setting.
Process/history

- Workshop with mathematical modelers.
- Widespread input from partners into paper for VCTEG.
- VCTEG paper forwarded to MPAC for endorsement.
- MPAC declined to endorse, citing distraction from the goal of universal coverage and potential confusion at country level.
Problems with VCTEG paper

• Initial recommendation of prioritizing vulnerable populations remains sound.
• Following this recommendation we proceeded into a geographically-based stratification process, which is far more problematic.
Recent input

- Recommendation makes sense for Africa, but not Asia.
- EPI distribution has been given less emphasis than ANC distribution.
Key Issues for discussion

• Approval of Consensus Letter: joint statement by MIP, VCWG and AMP in support of MPAC/GMP guidance on prioritizing ANC/EPI delivery conjointly with LLIN-distribution campaigns.

• Focus on prioritizing nets to vulnerable groups (ANC/EPI) regardless of transmission intensity/geography.
Implications

• Generalizations can be made in terms of risk on geographic basis. Would be ideal to include vulnerability in the risk calculation.

• Stratification by transmission intensity requires recent, quality data at an extremely granular level.

• In the presence of a commercial market for LLINs, the issue becomes targeting of subsidies rather than nets.
Next Steps

• Targeting LLINs or subsidies geographically should be based on a model of potential implications inherent in not being able to achieve Universal Coverage in different transmission settings, including continent-wide.

• Likely will need coordination with modelers and emerging surveillance activities to map transmission risk.
Some longer-term implications

• The draft GTS includes stratification and evidence-based selection of interventions as general principles.

• The process of moving towards prioritizing LLIN distribution (or subsidies) requires careful thought and strategic consultation as part of countries’ national strategic planning and the GTS/GMAP2 process.