Highlighting success in scaling up LF elimination
Introduction cont.

Facts about Liberia

- Population: 3,476,608 (National census, 2008)
- Annual growth rate 2.1%
- 15 counties
- 14 years of civil war
- Poor health system
- Prioritization of NTDs among other public health initiatives
Birth of Integrated NTDs

• Sightsavers played a major role linking CNTDs to MOH/SW-Liberia
• CNTDs first visited Liberia and gave an open support to the NTDs programme during the 5th MRU meeting held in Monrovia 2009
• WHO supported MOH/SW to conduct LF ICT survey
• More than 75% of NTDs financial support comes from CNTDs/LSTM, 2012
• MOH/SW is implementing integrated NTDs intervention mainly including Lymphatic filariasis, Onchocerciasis, Soil Transmitted Helminths, Schistosomiasis, Guinea worm and Buruli ulcer
Challenges

- Post conflict infrastructural challenges
- Poor motivation of health workers and drugs distributors
- Donor interest in vertical programmes
- Limited financial resources from government
- Poor intersectoral collaboration
- Poor health systems
- Low technical capacity
- Lack of mechanism for morbidity management
NTDs Program Manager challenged in the mud during supervision.
Addressing the challenges

Despite the many challenges in the efforts to eliminate LF, significant progress has been made to ensure a successful first round of integrated MDA implementation for LF elimination in 2012 using the CDI strategy:

- NTDs have been included in the 10-year National Health Policy and plan and the Essential package of Health Services.
- With support from CNTDs, APOC/WHO and Sightsavers the MOH/SW is progressively distributing albendazole and mectizan tablets targeting more than 1.6 million people in 13 endemic counties, in 2012.
Addressing challenges cont.

• Using existing structures eg. CDTI (CDI) as an opportunity to fully scale up geographical coverage at once contrary to many countries that have started small and later scaled up

• Over 10,000 CDDs and 500 health workers are trained to implement MDA to benefit about 1.6 million people

• A massive social mobilization campaign on the benefit of MDA is on going in difficult to reach communities
Addressing challenges cont.

- Despite the massive turnover of CDDs due to poor motivation, the MOH continue to encourage volunteers to serve as community drug distributors.
- Mechanism to monitor the impact of MDA has been established.
- Long Lasting Insecticide treated nets distribution and Indoor Residual Spraying on-going through the National Malaria Control Program.
- Two operational research on-going: 1. To determine the impact of vector control to MDA; 2. To determine the existence of urban transmission of LF.
Lesson learned

• Proper coordination and maximum outcomes of NTDs interventions is enhanced when all NTDs are integrated into one program.

• Using existing structures eg. CDTI (CDI) as an opportunity to increase geographical coverage

• Increased collaboration with malaria control programmes (IVM) might speed up LF elimination
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THANK YOU!