



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

Ministry of Health and Social Services

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OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY

MEDIA RELEASE

2018 INDOOR RESIDUAL SPRAYING (IRS) LAUNCHED IN WINDHOEK

HISTORY OF IRS IN NAMIBIA

Since Independence, the Ministry of Health and Social Services has been implementing annual spray campaigns aimed at covering all the habitable structures (rooms, huts, shelters, corridors) with sprayable surfaces in targeted villages that are in malaria endemic regions. The aim of Indoor Residual Spraying is to protect the populations at risk from contracting malaria by killing the malaria vector mosquito when it rests on sprayed surfaces. IRS thus reduces the vector-human contact and prevents transmission of malaria amongst our communities at large.

The Ministry has always aimed at spraying at least 85% of the targeted households to achieve the effective protective coverage of IRS. However, very often, this a challenge due to locked houses, refusals, difficult terrains and the long distances spray teams travel. In 2017, a total of 694,328 structures were sprayed out of the 868,372 planned. The campaign was implemented for a period of three months in 9 malaria regions (Zambezi, Kavango East & West, Oshana, Oshikoto, Omusati, Kunene, Ohangwena, and Otjozondjupa). The country achieved National IRS coverage of 80% for 2017.

LAUNCH OF THE 2018 IRS CAMPAIGN

The official launch of the campaign will be held on the 14/09/2018 in Windhoek by Hon. Juliet Kavetuna, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services. The 2018 campaign spray operations will start on 17/09/2018 and continue until 30/11/2018. A total number of 1542 spray personnel (supervisors, spray operators (men and women) and drivers) have been trained on; conducting IRS, spray equipment maintenance and supervision techniques. The trained spray operators and drivers are deployed in various malaria regions. Regional and national teams will be supervising the campaign throughout the spraying operation. During this year's IRS campaign, a total of 1,083,060 structures are targeted for spraying in all nine malaria regions.

PLEA TO THE PUBLIC

Communities residing in the malaria regions are requested to allow the spraying team into their houses to be sprayed and those in possession of long lasting insecticidal nets are advised to hang and sleep under nets during the malaria season to protect their families against malaria. People experiencing signs and symptoms of malaria are encouraged to seek early treatment at nearby health facilities or community health workers operating in the villages.

Yours Sincerely,

Ben Nangombe (Mr)
Permanent Secretary

