

Govt targets 8 million Ugandans in new mosquito net distribution

BY TONNY ABET

KAMPALA. The Ministry of Health is set to distribute 4.8 million mosquito nets across 32 districts, targeting over 8.1 million Ugandans in a bid to combat the malaria surge, especially in children.

This drive falls under the 2026 campaign, where 25.8 million mosquito nets will be distributed across 130 districts, in line with the World Health Organisation guideline of one net for every two people.

Dr Jane Ruth Aceng, the minister of health, in a statement read by Dr Richard Kabanda on Thursday at Uganda Media Centre, said the mosquito net distribution is aimed at combating the rising burden of malaria in the

country.

Dr Aceng said among the most effective malaria prevention measures is the consistent use of Long-Lasting Insecticide-Treated Nets (LLINs).

"When used well, mosquito nets break malaria transmission by 50 percent, reduce morbidity and mortality by 25 percent, and can reduce childhood mortality by up to 25 percent," she added.

The minister said the mosquito nets provide a protective barrier, particularly for vulnerable populations such as children under five, pregnant women, people with sickle cell, and communities in high-risk areas.

She, in the statement, appealed to the population to register for the nets through local leaders and Village

STATISTICS

According to the Malaria Indicator Survey report released last month by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, malaria burden in children has increased to 12.5 percent, up from 9 percent in 2018.

Health Teams (VHTs). Recipients are also asked to use the nets properly and consistently, and have been warned against using the nets in fishing, fencing, or gardening.

The ministry also asked mosquito net recipients to hang the nets in the shade for 24 hours before setting them up for

use. "Remember to seek care within 24 hours of fever onset, and adhere to treatment provided by the professional medical healthcare provider. Clear all breeding sites, including stagnant water, bushes, empty tyres, broken pots, etc., around our households," the ministry added.

The recipient districts include Agago, Amuru, Gulu, Gulu City, Kitgum, Lamwo, Nwoya, Omoro, Pader, Mayuge, Amuria, Bukedea, Kaberamaido, Kaki, Kapelebyong, Katakwi, Kumi, Ngoma, Serere, Soroti, Soroti City, Bududa, Bukwo, Bulambuli, Busia, Kapchorwa, Kween, Luuka, Manafa, Namayingo, Namisindwa, and Sironko.

This follows the January 2026 campaign, where 3.4 million nets were distributed across 20 districts, protecting

approximately 6.5 million Ugandans. In July, nets will be distributed in districts of Kigezi, Tooro, and the Central region, and in September, the distribution will happen in Kampala and Wako "due to the unique living patterns and mobility of the population."

Surge in malaria

The ministry also linked the recent surge in malaria cases to poor adherence to prevention measures, climate variability, and increasing resistance of both malaria vectors to insecticides and malaria parasites to antimalarial drugs.

"Malaria is one of the leading public health challenges in our country. However, it is preventable and treatable."