



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY

MEDIA RELEASE 2019 INDOOR RESIDUAL SPRAYING (IRS) MESSAGE OF

SUBJECTED: MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION TO THE PUBLIC' PARTICIPATION DURING THE 2018 INDOOR RESDUAL SPRAYING.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) in collaboration with partners would like to take this opportunity to thank the public and the contribution they have made during the 2018 Indoor Residual Spraying took place in the following regions: Zambezi, Kavango East & West, Oshana, Oshikoto, Omusati, Kunene, Ohangwena, and Otjozondjupa.

2018 Indoor Residual Spraying was a resounding success, thus the MoHSS would like to take this opportunity to share the heartfelt appreciation for your support and participation during this campaign.

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 85% for 2018.

LAUNCH OF THE 2018 IRS CAMPAIGN

The 2018 campaign spray operations started 17/09/2018 and ended on the 30/11/2018. A total number of 1542 spray personnel (supervisors, spray operators (men and women) and drivers) was trained on; conducting IRS, spray equipment maintenance and supervision techniques. During the IRS campaign, a total of 1,083,060 structures were sprayed in all nine malaria regions.