

Togo: Integrating interventions to accelerate progress on child survival

IN 2004, Togo conducted the first ever national distribution of insecticide-treated mosquito nets. The campaign utilized the infrastructure and personnel already in place for an ongoing measles mortality reduction strategy to provide an integrated package of health-care interventions. The package included measles vaccine, oral polio vaccine, one treated mosquito net and one tablet of mebendazole deworming medication per child, with the aim of reaching more than 95 per cent of children.

An evaluation of the planning, implementation and results demonstrated the feasibility of integrating delivery of these services. One month after the campaign began, evaluators found that 93.1 per cent of children had been reached with measles vaccine and 94 per cent with mebendazole, and household ownership of treated nets increased from 8 per cent to 63 per cent. The campaign still had a long way to go, however, particularly in changing behaviour: The night before the survey only 44 per cent of children under five had slept under their nets.

See References, page 51.