

Conflict of Interest

The author has declared no conflict of interest.

Mass drug administration of long-acting antimalarials among children in Bossangoa health district, Central African Republic: programme description and evaluation

MSF Scientific Days 2021

Eve Robinson *on behalf of the study team*

The burden of malaria

“...our babies get sick from malaria when the mangos are gone”

[Mother from Benzambé]

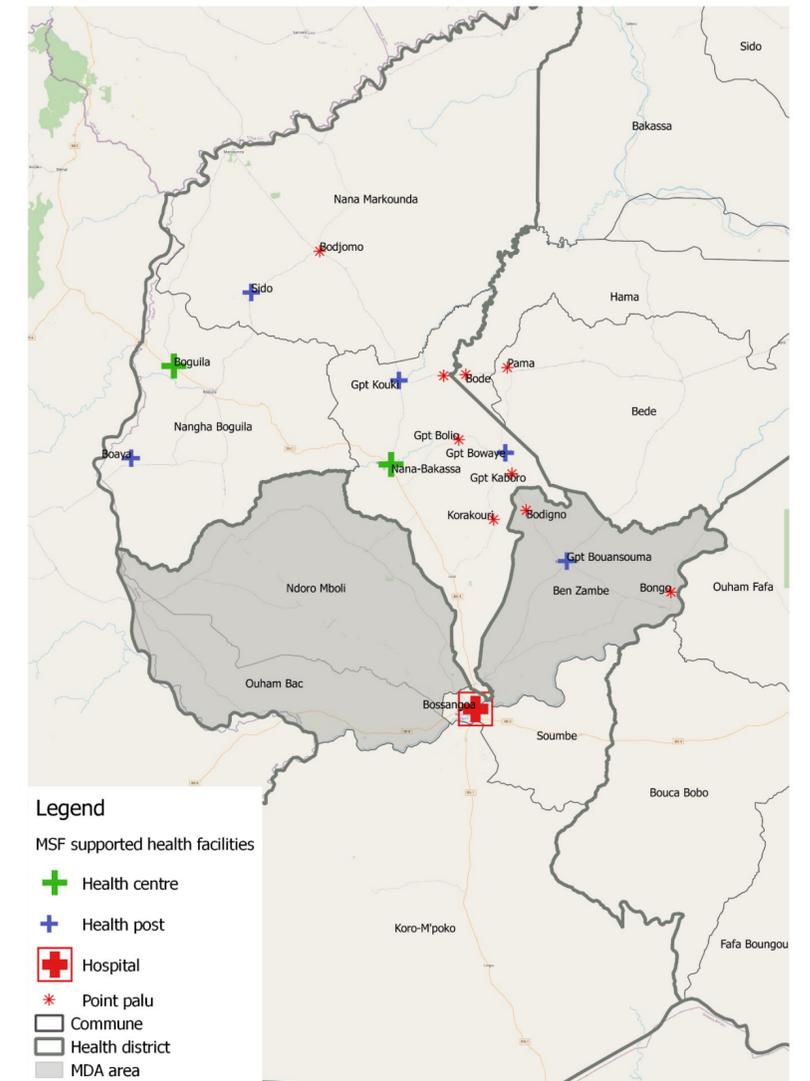
- MSF Bossangoa project 2019:
 - 3,344 paediatric admissions
 - 194,561 diagnoses in community



Photo by Eve Robinson

The MDA programme

- 17 August – 24 November 2020
 - Communes of Ouham-Bac, Benzambé, and Ndoro Mboli
 - Children aged between 3 months and 15 years
 - Dihydroartemisinin-Piperaquine (DHA-PQ)
 - 3 cycles



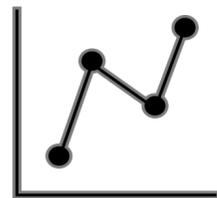
A mixed method evaluation



Household survey

Coverage

Community perceptions



Analysis of routine surveillance

Clinical impact



Focus group discussions

Community perceptions

A mixed method evaluation

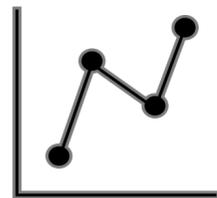


Household survey

Coverage

Community perceptions

- 1207 children across 366 households
- Child questions on participation
- Household questions on satisfaction



Analysis of routine surveillance

Clinical impact

- Reduction in
 - Consultations
 - Malaria diagnoses
 - mRDTs positivity
 - Severe malaria admissions

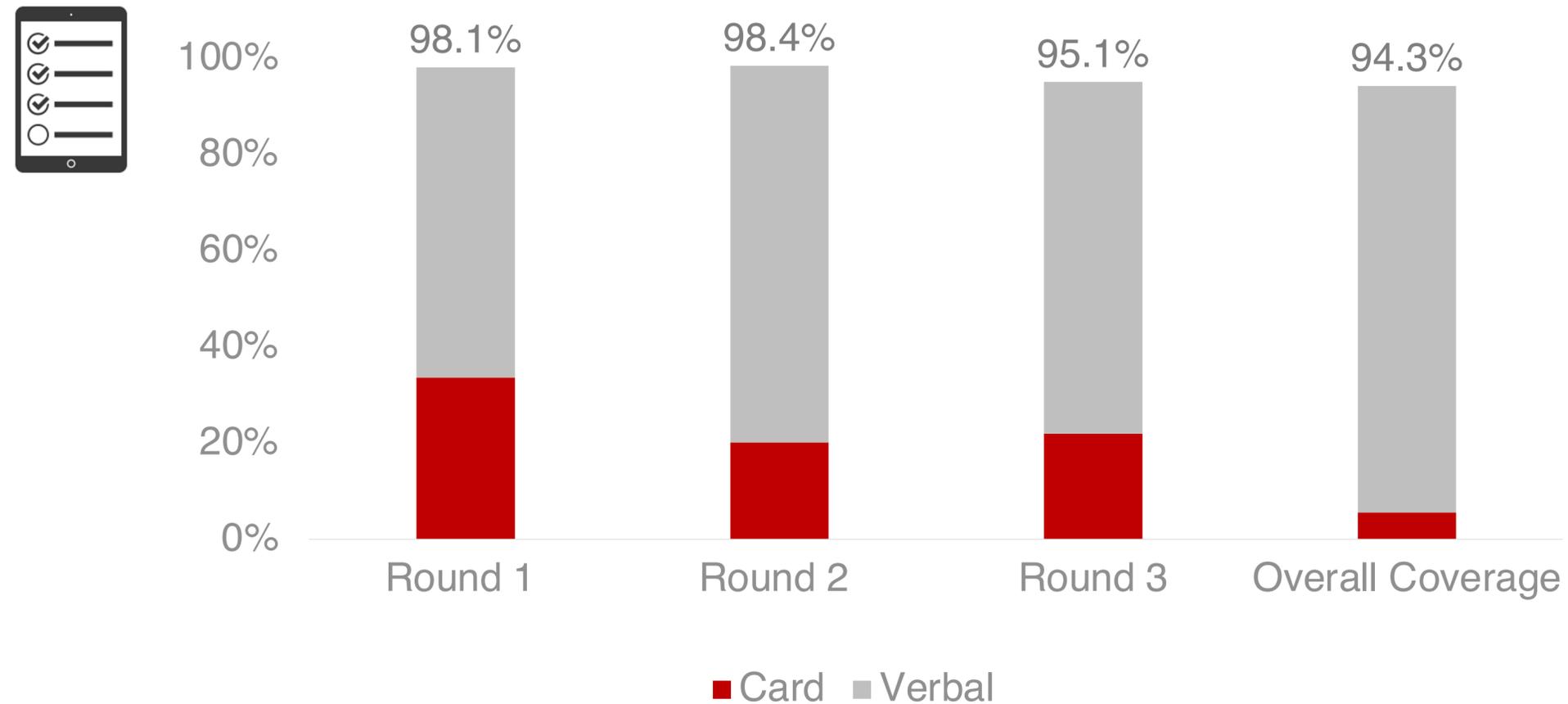


Focus group discussions

Community perceptions

- 27 focus group discussions
- 388 participants

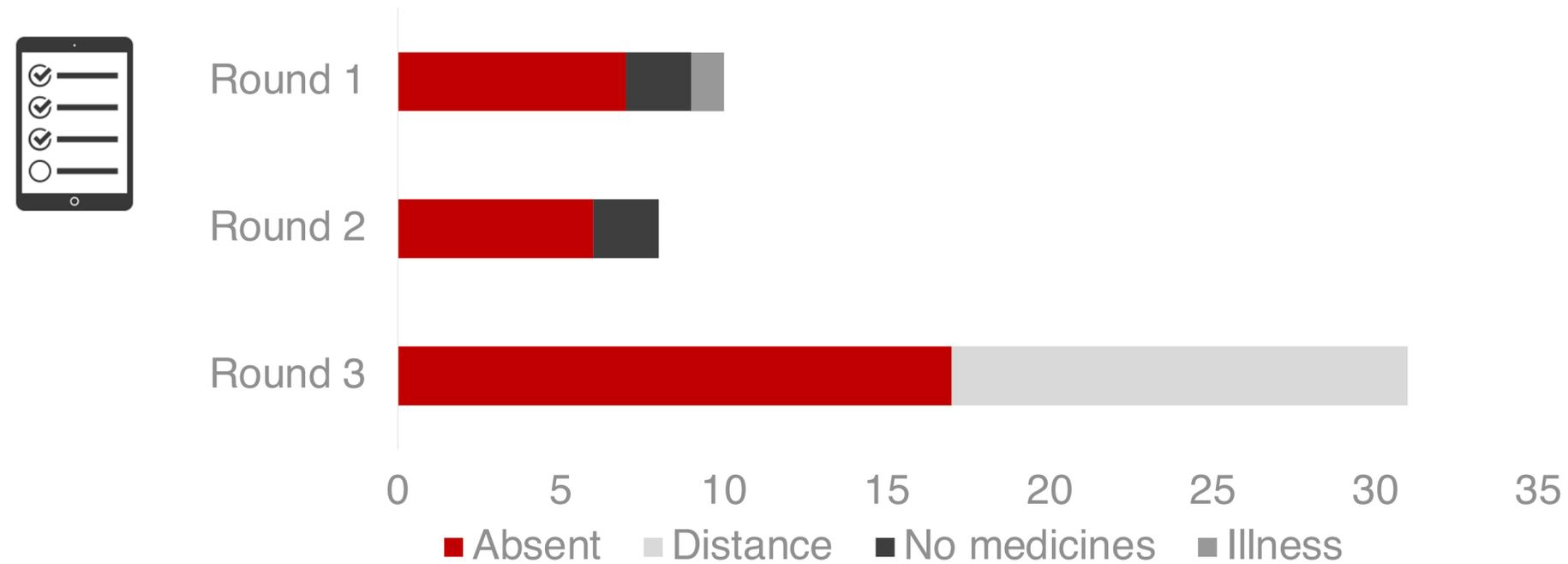
Coverage and adherence to the MDA



"yes, the three days of the administration are respected"

[FGD3-Boyongo-kota-com-Ndor]

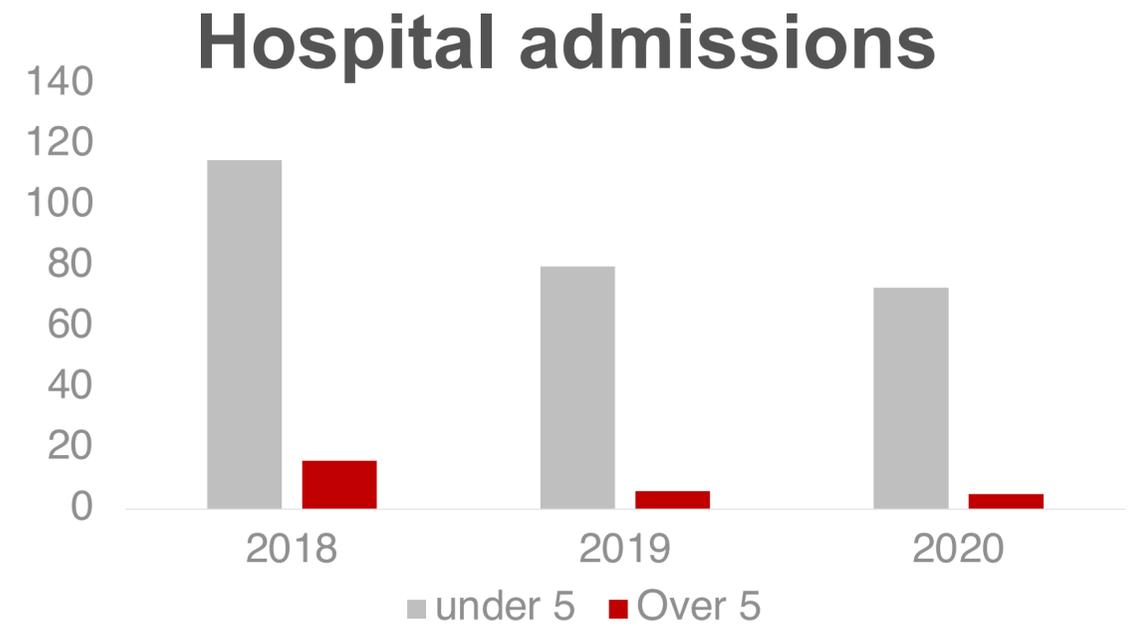
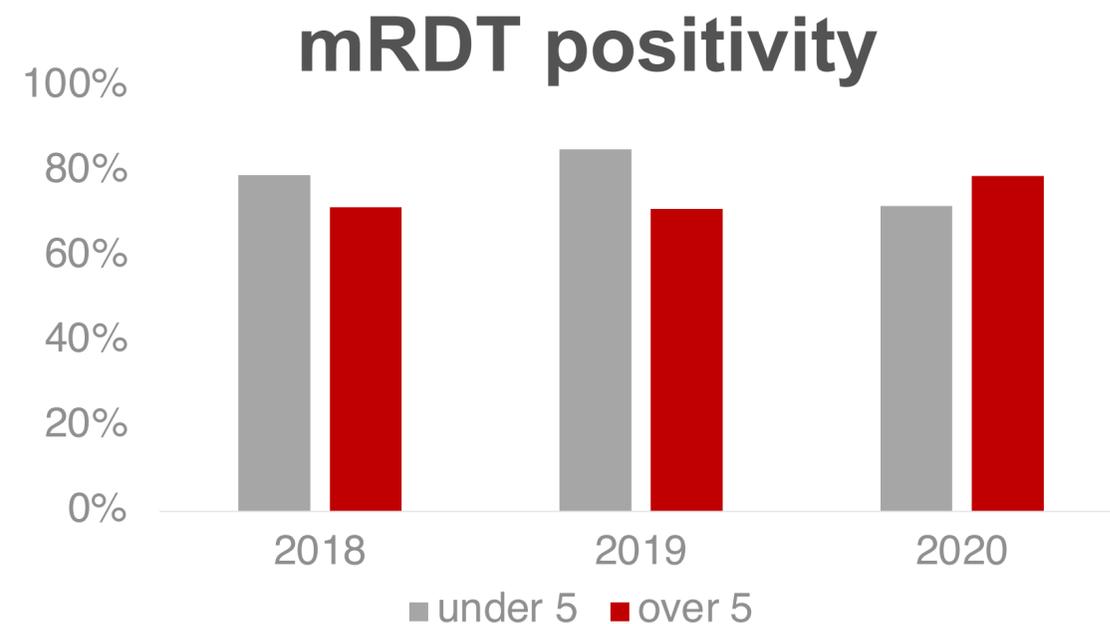
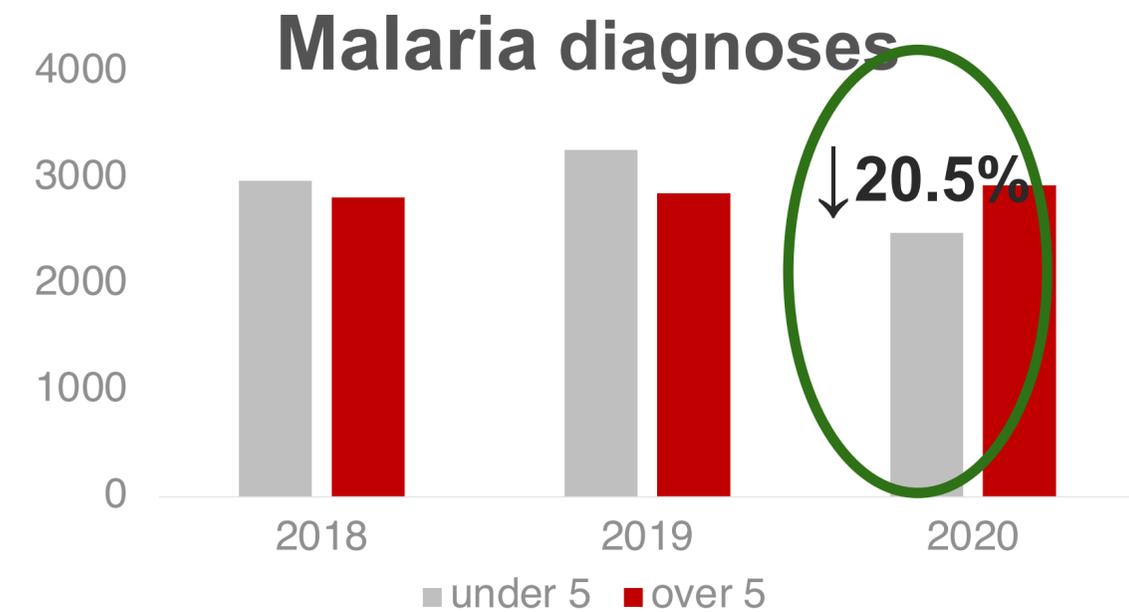
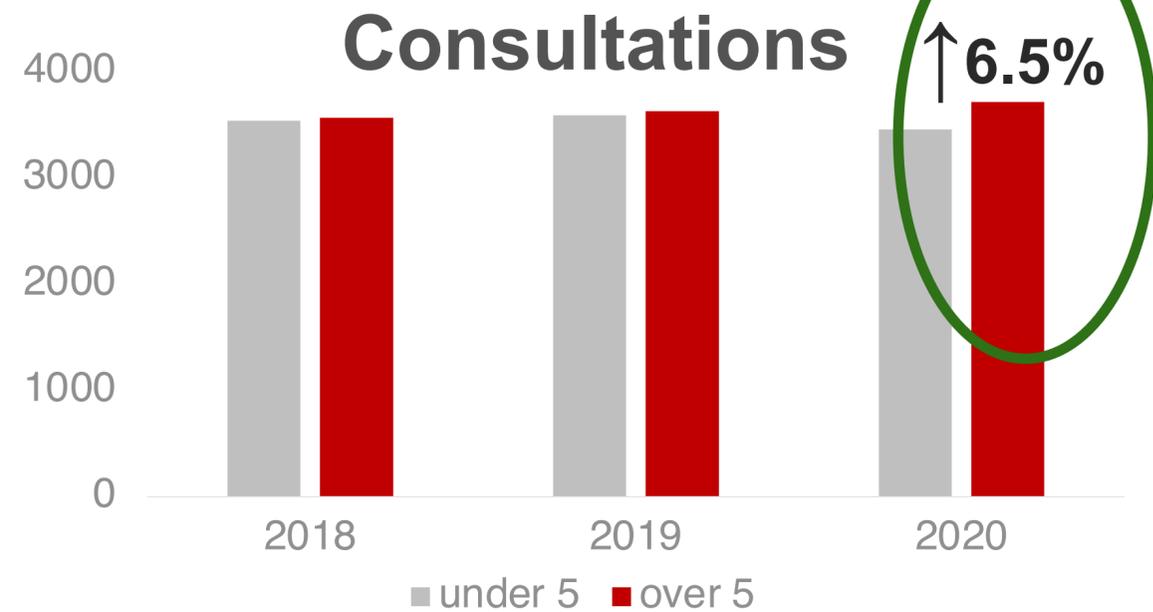
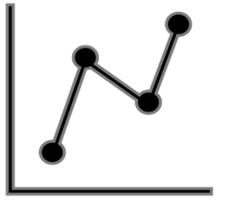
Reasons for not participating



“in the first round ...some parents were fleeing following false information.... and think that these drugs could cause problems for”

[FGD3-Bowé-com-Ouh]

Clinical impact – surveillance data



Clinical impact - community perception



Improved health

“Before this distribution, the children were sick but after this campaign the children are in good health”

[household 14, cluster 2, Ouham Bac]

“...everywhere in the village, we are talking about the effectiveness of these drugs that help children”

[FGD3-Kara-com-Ouh]

“...after taking these medicines there is no more malaria in our village”

[household 199, cluster 20, Ndoro Mboli]

Reduced healthcare visits

“Before, we go back and forth between Gollo-kota and Gbadé and sometimes we lose the children along the way”

[FGD-Gollo-kota-com-Ndor]

Reduced household expenditure

“After the administration I did not have to spend to buy drugs to treat my children”

[household 130, cluster 14, Ndoro Mboli]

Satisfaction and recommendations



Continue/ repeat programme

"We want the medicine to be distributed every year"

[household 64, cluster 7, Ouham Bac]

"We are waiting for these drugs with open hearts and open arms"

[FGD3-Kara-com-Ouh]

Expand programme

"I hope you will reconsider the age group by including all ages and adults"

[FGD3-Bodoro-com-Ndo]

"I ask MSF to give these medicines to pregnant women also"

[household 36, cluster ,4 Ouham Bac]

"Think of the other children who were too young..."

[household 190, cluster 20, Ndoro Mboli]

Factors contributing to success



Community involvement

“It was the village chiefs who encouraged the women to participate in the distribution. Our spiritual fathers also sensitized us during worship and their wives did so during women's religious meetings.”

[FGD1_Gbakera_Benz]

“We have all contributed to this administration without knowing it...mothers of children take their children to go to the field but the other woman who gives advice to her neighbor not to go to the field but to accompany the children to be administered”

[FGD1_Gbakera_Benz]

Discussion

- High level of coverage
- Some, but limited quantitative evidence of clinical impact
- Substantial positive impact reported by the community
- Very high satisfaction in the community



Photo by Eve Robinson

Conclusion

- Challenging but feasible
- Mixed evidence of effectiveness
- Consider purposely designed evaluation studies
- Harness the community engagement achieved



Photo by Eve Robinson

Acknowledgements

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