



EDCTP

This project is part of the EDCTP2 programme supported by the European Union

OPT-SMC World Malaria Day Newsletter

News !



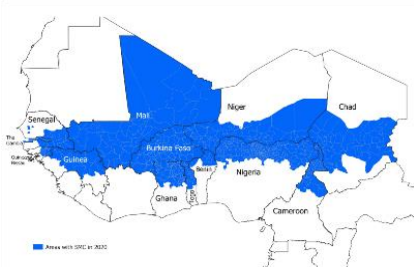
The OPT-SMC Project is celebrating first anniversary!

The team has made significant strides to support countries to improve upon the impact of SMC. Till date, 3 NMCPs (Guinea, Benin, and Ghana) have commenced research activities and 4 will be commencing the following projects in 2021. The team has also developed videos to support countries in incorporating COVID-19 safety measures in their SMC programmes. Other national programs will be funded to develop research projects during 2021.

Likewise, the OPT-SMC Project has developed videos in several languages (French, English, Portuguese, Hausa, and soon Fula and others) to help programs in the training of CPS drug distributors with an emphasis on health measures against COVID 19.

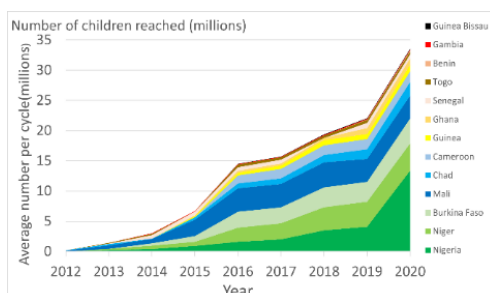
Reaching all children in SMC eligible areas

In 2020, SMC programmes in thirteen countries reached about 34 million children. OPT-SMC supports operational research to optimize delivery of SMC, with the aim to ensure that within these areas, all children receive preventive treatments each month during the high-risk period.



Filling the gap from 2019

In 2019, about 30 million children in priority areas were eligible for SMC. Out of these, 22 million children were reached, leaving a gap of about 8 million children. In 2020, about 34 million children were reached.



OPT-SMC Committee and SMC Alliance Updates



SMC Working Group has a new name (SMC Alliance) and a [new website](#)
The SMC working Group has now been renamed, the SMC Alliance, to reflect its role within the RBM Partnership to End Malaria. A [website](#) and social media page (Twitter: @AllianceSmc) for the group will be launched shortly.



SMC Alliance 2021 Meeting

The SMC Alliance held its annual meeting from the 9th to the 11th of March 2021. A section of this meeting was dedicated to presenting updates on the OPT-SMC project. Topics discussed at the meeting included the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on SMC implementation, the successful use of digital equipment for information collection during SMC implementation, the SMC pilot project in Mozambique and cross-border collaborations.



Combining SMC with the RTSS vaccine

An update on the RTSS vaccine initiative, its synergies with SMC and challenges were presented at the recent SMC working Group meeting.

OPT-SMC Countries' Update



Implementation research projects' update

- Tchad, Niger and Mali: Refine the SMC eligibility criteria and define the number of cycles according to the areas, start and end dates of transmission, age, target groups.
- Burkina Faso: Determine factors associated with the onset of malaria in children under 5 years during and after SMC campaigns.
- Cameroon is also looking to improve SMC dose adherence among caregivers to improve SMC efficacy.



Evaluation of the impact of COVID-19 on SMC delivery

An evaluation of the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on 2020 SMC campaign was conducted for 12 out of 13 countries. Overall SMC delivery in 2020 was successful despite the pandemic. Countries put in place efficient mitigation strategies and as such there were only partial disruptions for some activities such as trainings, drug supply and social mobilization.

These mitigation strategies will be important to consider for the planning of 2021 SMC campaign.



Feedback from the incorporating "COVID-19 safety measures in SMC campaign" video workshop

A workshop to evaluate the video on how to implement SMC during the amidst COVID-19 was held on 26th (Anglophone countries) and 28th (Francophone countries) January 2021. All SMC implementing NMCPs were invited. All agreed the video was useful and practical but needed to be reproduced in additional local languages and adapted to the local context.

Next steps



We look forward to receiving your letter of intent

For the remaining countries who have yet to start a project, the OPT-SMC welcome letters of intent and are looking forward to supporting countries' operational and implementation research to improve their SMC programmes.

Upcoming Events



Upcoming workshop on new SMC module on DHIS2 and SMC impact evaluation

The OPT-SMC Committee, together with the World Health Organization's Global Malaria Programme will organize a workshop during the month of June or July. The workshop will focus introducing an SMC module onto the DHIS2 platform. The workshop will also discuss how to better interpret malaria morbidity data for the evaluation of the impact of SMC.

