



EDCTP

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

OPT-SMC World Malaria Day 2023 newsletter



The OPT-SMC project enters its final year!

This is the final year of OPT-SMC project; it's a busy period of completing projects and writing up articles. The Optimising SMC (OPT-SMC) project is a four-year project (May 2020 – April 2024) funded by the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP). The project supports National Malaria Programmes (NMPs) to conduct implementation research to improve delivery & impact of SMC.

The project is led by the University of Thiès (Senegal) in partnership with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, WHO-TDR, Medicines for Malaria Venture and the NMPs of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, The Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo.

News



The SMC Alliance holds its 2023 annual meeting in Guinea

The SMC Alliance held its 2023 annual meeting at the end of February in Conakry, Guinea. In attendance was the Saif Kaidi, chief of staff of the ministry of health of Guinea, among others. Seventeen countries were in attendance.



The SMC Alliance celebrates 10 years of successful SMC implementation with launch of a milestone report

The SMC Alliance celebrates 10 years of successful implementation following WHO's recommendation of the intervention in 2012. A new report which highlights the progress that has been made in scaling up SMC 10 years ago was launched at the event.



48 million children in 15 African countries receive SMC in 2022

In 2022, due to further expansion of SMC, the intervention reached nearly 48 million children in 15 African countries, a major increase from 45 million in 2021. In 2020, Uganda and Mozambique implemented SMC for the first time through pilot projects. Several others, such as South Sudan, are piloting the intervention due to its reported effectiveness in the Sahel.



The SMC Alliance welcomes appointment of Dr Daniel Ngamije as Director of Global Malaria Control Programme

On Tuesday, 21 March, the World Health Organization (WHO) appointed Dr Daniel Ngamije as the Director of the Global Malaria Programme (GMP). Dr Ngamije will work closely with governments, NGOs, and other organizations to ensure that all people at risk of malaria have access to effective prevention, diagnosis, and treatment, and that efforts to control and eliminate malaria are coordinated, evidence-based, and sustainable.

Country updates

Completed projects



- We are delighted to announce that the study: [Barriers and facilitators of SMC uptake in Nigeria: a qualitative study in 5 states](#) has been accepted by Malaria Journal.
- The NMPs of Ghana and Guinea have also completed their studies this year. We will work with these teams to write up their work for publication.

Projects at the analysis stage



Data collection for the studies below is complete or near completion. We are now analysing the data.

- Burkina Faso: Evaluating the determinants of variations in SMC coverage in Burkina Faso.
- Cameroon: Effectiveness and cost of using community household leaders to improve SMC adherence in northern Cameroon.
- Mali: Evaluating three approaches to improve uptake and adherence of SMC in Koulikoro Region, Mali.
- Benin: Monitoring the effectiveness of SMC in northern Benin during the 2020 & 2021 campaigns, using the case-control method.
- Senegal: Estimating delivery costs as well as cost effectiveness of SMC in southern Senegal.

Projects being implemented



The following NMPs are in the process of developing data collection tools or collecting the data:

- Niger: Applying updated WHO SMC guidelines in Niger : timing, number of cycles, and age ranges at risk of severe malaria.
- Togo: Defining optimal SMC strategies : timing, number of cycles, and age ranges at risk of severe malaria.

Projects being developed and about to commence



- **The Gambia:** Assessment of adherence to the Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention (SMC) treatment in children up to 10 years of age in The Gambia.
- **Guinea Bissau:** Strengthening health management information systems to assess the impact of Seasonal Malaria Chemoprophylaxis (SMC) in three regions in Guinea Bissau.
- **Chad:** Defining optimal SMC strategies in Chad: timing, number of cycles, and age ranges at risk of severe malaria.

Events organized



Workshop on implementation strategies for the introduction of the RTS,S/AS01 (RTS,S) malaria vaccine

This workshop, organized in January 2023, was convened by the OPT-SMC project in collaboration with The Access & Delivery Partnership (ADP), the WHO Malaria Vaccine Implementation Programme (MVIP) of the Department of Immunization, the Vaccines and Biologicals and the WHO regional office for Africa.

The workshop brought together representatives from expanded programmes of immunization, NMPs, researchers and relevant stakeholders to tackle questions regarding the introduction of the RTS,S vaccine in countries with highly seasonal malaria transmission.



M&E webinar approaches to SMC Campaigns: can we believe what is reported - video available

The Monitoring and Evaluation sub-group of the SMC Alliance organized a webinar in March 2023, entitled “M&E approaches to SMC campaigns: can we believe what is reported” on the 21st of March. The [recording](#) of the webinar is below.

New Resources



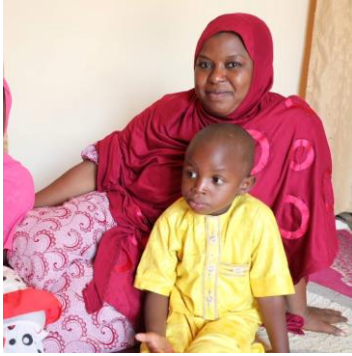
Presentations from the 2023 SMC Alliance annual meeting

Presentations from the Feb-March 2023 Annual meeting are now available for viewing and download on our [website](#). We would like to thank all presenters and teams for their involvement.



Celebrating 10 years of SMC report

A new report has been launched to mark 10 years of the successful implementation of seasonal malaria chemoprevention (SMC) in Africa. The report, entitled ‘From concept to scale – Celebrating 10 years of seasonal malaria chemoprevention.



Catholic Relief Services has developed a handbook to guide national malaria programmes in digitising data for ITNs and SMC campaigns

The handbook represents an effort to share our learnings from a decade of implementing digital campaigns. It outlines key considerations and recommendations for the digitalization of large-scale campaigns, with the aim of helping partners better understand the people, processes, and technology solutions required to successfully digitalize their campaigns.



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