



EDCTP

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

## OPT-SMC end of year newsletter - 2023



### OPT-SMC updates

We are delighted to confirm that the OPT-SMC project has been granted a no cost extension by the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) up to April 2025. This is excellent news, given the project began during the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused significant delays in the implementation of country projects. Working now outside of the COVID-19 pandemic, also means, country partners can fully focus on the project aims to optimise SMC rather than being constrained by the impact of COVID-19 on delivering SMC.

## News



### [Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali and Nigeria present at the EDCTP 2023 Forum](#)

As beneficiaries of the EDCTP grant, the OPT-SMC committee presented the findings from the studies they had conducted at the 11th EDCTP Forum held in Paris from the 7-10th November.

Participants expressed interest in themes such as community concerns and government support for SMC.



### [World Malaria Report 2022 launched: spotlights threat of climate change](#)

The 2023 World malaria report delves into the interface between climate change and malaria. Changes in temperature, humidity and rainfall can influence the behaviour and survival of the malaria-carrying Anopheles mosquito. SMC and climate are closely linked and managing climate changes will certainly have to be considered in the optimization of SMC.

## Country updates

### Completed projects



- **Nigeria:** has completed its project and the related paper Barriers and facilitators of SMC uptake in Nigeria: a qualitative study in 5 states has been published in Malaria Journal.
- The NMPs of Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea and Mali have also completed their studies and we are working with these teams to write up for publication.
- **Burkina Faso:** Evaluating the determinants of SMC coverage between urban and rural areas
- **Cameroon:** Effectiveness of using household leaders to improve adherence during SMC implementation.
- **Ghana:** "SMC coverage and factors associated with uptake and adherence.
- **Guinea:** "Barriers to SMC uptake in the mining areas and an improved delivery approach".
- **Mali:** Evaluation of SMC using three approaches: DOT3, SMCPlus and the Classic method.

## Projects at the analysis stage



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

- **Benin:** Monitoring effectiveness of SMC in northern Benin during the 2020 & 2021 campaigns, using the case-control method.
- **Senegal:** Estimating the delivery costs and cost effectiveness of SMC in southern Senegal / Mechanistic modelling of the SMC cost effectiveness.

## Projects being implemented



The following NMPs are in the process of 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.
- **The Gambia:** Assessment of Adherence to the Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention (SMC) Treatment in The Gambia in children up to 10 years of age.

## Projects being developed and about to commence



- **Guinea Bissau:** Strengthening health management information systems to assess the impact of Seasonal Malaria Chemoprophylaxis (SMC) in three regions in Guinea Bissau. The Ethics committee approval is already obtained.
- **Chad:** Barriers and facilitators to SMC delivery in nomadic communities in the district of Baro, Délégation

Sanitaire Provinciale du Guera. The project is being developed.

- **Burkina Faso** is developing a 2<sup>nd</sup> project to put into practice findings from their 1<sup>st</sup> project. They aim to implement an experimental project for more community engagement in improving SMC coverage in urban area of Bobo-Dioulasso and Ouagadougou. The project is under review by the OPT-SMC team.

## 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. You can watch the recording of the webinar [here](#).



### SMC Alliance at the ASTMH

The SMC Alliance and several sub-groups within the Alliance met at the ASTMH for networking and informal exchanges. Topics raised at the Alliance's meeting included the need for a clear differentiation between SMC and perennial malaria chemoprevention and when which intervention should be implemented as well as under what conditions SMC can be stopped or reintroduced. Further discussions on these will be held at the Alliance's meetings in 2024. To join the Alliance please contact [Dr. André-Marie Tchouatieu](#).

## New Resources



### [Video on monitoring and evaluation webinar](#)

Missed our M&E webinar on National and subnational processes and contexts for modeling? Catch up on what you [missed](#).



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