



EDCTP

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

OPT-SMC Newsletter



OPT-SMC updates

We are now in the final stages of this project, which will end in April 2025. Our second half of 2024 has focused on working with country partners to complete their OPT-SMC implementation studies. Learn more below.

As we draw near to the end of 2024, we would like to thank you for your dedication to optimizing SMC and working together with us to ensure that more children are protected from malaria with SMC.

News



[The OPT-SMC project featured at TDR and MMV's anniversary symposium at ASTMH](#)

The project was featured at the American Society of Tropical Medicine Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, which took place from the 13-17th of November, 2024. The project was presented by Dr. Fatimata Bintou Sall at a joint celebration of TDR's 50th anniversary and Medicines for Malaria Venture's 25th anniversary.



[The 2024 World Malaria Report has been launched!](#)

The report highlighted that over the last ten years, the average number of African children reached with SMC rose from about 170 000 in 2012 to 53 million in 2023. Due to its reported success, two countries introduced SMC for the first time in 2023: Côte d'Ivoire and Madagascar.



[The OPT-SMC communications workshop featured on Radio Television Senegal](#)

In May, 2024, as part of the OPT-SMC project, TDR organised a communications training programme to help countries develop their scientific articles and strategize on how to present their initiatives and results to the media and to local communications. Snapshots of the workshop were featured on the news on Radio Television Senegal.



[The OPT-SMC team speaks on actions implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic at the SOAP conference in Gabon](#)

The OPT-SMC team, represented by Dr. André-Marie Tchouatieu presented on support videos made to help countries to adhere to safely and effectively implement SMC during the pandemic at the SOAP conference. The team also shared its findings on research conducted with countries on how measures they implemented to help adapt and successfully implement SMC during the pandemic.



[The OPT-SMC team presents at Expertise France conference](#)

The OPT-SMC team, represented by Dr. Corinne Merle (WHO-TDR), and Dr. André-Marie Tchouatieu (MMV), served as trainers and part of the scientific committee of a training course organised by Expertise France on climate change and malaria.

The training which was held in Kigali, Rwanda, was to equip national malaria programme managers with an understanding of the relationship between malaria and climate change as well as actionable strategies for implementation within their respective contexts. Participants from 19 French-speaking African nations were in attendance.

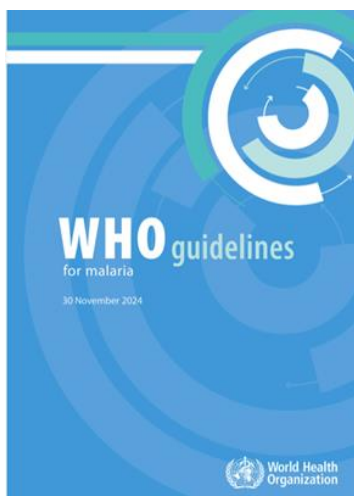
Upcoming events



[OPT-SMC project project countries' meeting in February 2025 \(day before the start of the Chemoprevention Alliance meeting\)](#)

The OPT-SMC team is organising a project meeting for all participating countries on Monday the 24th of February 2025, a day before the wider Chemoprevention Meeting which will take place from Tuesday, the 25th to the 28th of February 2024. Both meetings will be held at the Hotel 2 février in Lomé, Togo. For further information please contact [Dr. André-Marie Tchouatieu](#) or [Ibrahima Mbaye](#).

New Resources



[The World Health Organization releases a new malaria guideline document](#)

On the 30th of November, the World Health Organisation published new guidelines for malaria. The guidelines made a strong recommendation for the use of SMC in areas with seasonal malaria. The guidelines provide recommendations on the implementation of SMC alongside other malaria interventions.

Country updates

Completed projects



Nigeria: Further results from Nigeria's "Barriers and facilitators of SMC uptake in Nigeria: a qualitative study in 5 states" project, which was presented at the 2023 EDCTP conference have been analysed and a second paper is being developed.

Cameroon's "Effectiveness of using household leaders to improve adherence during SMC implementation" was presented at the 2024 MIM conference and is now being written up for publication.

Ghana's "Implementing SMC in Ghana during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Coverage and Predictors for Uptake and Adherence was presented at ASTMH " and is now being written up for publication.

Guinea's "Redesigning the SMC strategy to ensure improved uptake in the Siguiri mining district of Guinea in 2021" was presented at the 2023 EDCTP conference is now being written up for publication.

Mali's "Evaluation of SMC using three approaches: DOT3, community SMC and the Standard SMC." was presented at the 2023 EDCTP conference and is now being written up for publication.

Senegal's "Modelling project to choose the optimal number and timing of cycles of SMC" and "Cost Effectiveness of SMC" were presented at MIM 2024 and are both being written up for publication.

The Gambia's "Adherence to the Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention (SMC) Treatment in The Gambia in children up to 10 years of age: A Qualitative Study" is now being written up for publication.

Togo's "Defining optimal SMC strategies in Togo" are finishing off their analysis.

Burkina Faso's findings from the "Evaluating the determinants of SMC coverage between urban and rural areas" study which were presented at the 2023 EDCTP conference is now being written up for publication.

Ongoing projects



Analysis on **Benin's** "Monitoring effectiveness of SMC in northern Benin during the 2020 & 2021 campaigns" project is ongoing.

Guinea-Bissau's "Strengthening health management information systems to assess the impact of SMC in three regions in Guinea Bissau" project is being developed.

Niger: Data is being collected for Niger's "Applying updated WHO SMC guidelines in Niger".



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