



OPT-SMC World Malaria day Newsletter 2024



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.

Our first half of 2024 has been exciting with many activities. Learn more below.

News



[The OPT-SMC project joins the SMC Alliance at the Alliance's 2024 Annual meeting in Abuja, Nigeria.](#)

National Malaria Programme officials from 19 malaria endemic countries in Africa participated in the 2024 SMC Alliance annual meeting held in Abuja, Nigeria at the end of February 2024.



[53 million children living in 18 countries covered with Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention in 2023](#)

At the 2024 SMC Alliance meeting in Abuja, it was announced that 53 million children were covered by SMC in 2023. The largest number of children, 28.7 million, were reached in Nigeria alone.



[The OPT-SMC and SMC Impact projects feature at the Multilateral Initiative on Malaria \(MIM\) conference](#)

At the 8th Multilateral Initiative on Malaria (MIM) conference held in April in Kigali, Rwanda, the OPT-SMC and SMC Impact projects shared lessons learned on delivering SMC within communities and on the cost-effectiveness of SMC.



[OPT-SMC featured during TDR's 50th anniversary symposium held at the 8th Multilateral Initiative on Malaria \(MIM\)](#)

As part of its 50th anniversary celebration, TDR featured projects such as OPT-SMC. Prof. Jean-Louis Ndiaye of the University of Iba Der Thiam of Thiès shared the project's successes and lessons learned.

Upcoming events



Communications workshop this May!

The OPT-SMC project team is organising a communications workshop from the 20th to the 24th of May in Dakar, Senegal. Key topics include developing and publishing scientific papers, policy briefs, media and social pieces. For more information, please contact [Corinne Merle](#) and [Ibrahima Mbaye](#).

Country updates

Completed projects



- Results from **Nigeria's** project entitled "Barriers and facilitators of SMC uptake in Nigeria: a qualitative study in 5 states" has been published in Malaria Journal. A second paper is being developed
- **Burkina Faso's** project entitled "Evaluating the determinants of SMC coverage between urban and rural areas" was presented orally at the Nov. 2023 EDCTP Paris conference.
- **Cameroon's** "Effectiveness of using household leaders to improve adherence during SMC implementation" project was presented orally at the Multilateral Initiative on Malaria conference.
- **Ghana:** Presented a poster on "SMC coverage and factors associated with uptake and adherence at ASTMH. The team is preparing its publication.
- **Guinea's** "Barriers to SMC uptake in the mining areas" project was presented orally at the Nov. 2023 EDCTP Paris conference. A scientific publication is being developed.
- **Mali's** project entitled "Evaluation of SMC using three approaches: DOT3, community SMC and the Standard SMC." was presented orally at the Nov. 2023 EDCTP Paris conference. The first draft of their publication is ready.
- **Senegal's** project known as "Modelling project to choose the optimal number and timing of cycles of SMC" was presented orally at the Multilateral Initiative on Malaria conference.

Projects at the analysis stage



Data analysis for the studies below is ongoing.

- Analysis on **Benin's** "Monitoring effectiveness of SMC in northern Benin during the 2020 & 2021 campaigns" project is ongoing.
- **The Gambia** has finished field work on its "Assessment of adherence to SMC" project and is working on its analysis and write up.
- Analysis on **Togo's** "Defining optimal SMC strategies in Togo" project is underway.

Projects being discussed or underway



- **Burkina Faso** is developing a 2nd project to put into practice findings from their 1st project. They aim to implement an experimental project for more community engagement in improving SMC coverage in the urban areas of Bobo-Dioulasso and Ouagadougou.
- **Chad's** "Barriers and facilitators to SMC delivery in nomadic communities in the district of Baro, Délégation Sanitaire Provinciale du Guera" project is being developed.
- Approval from the ethics committee of **Guinea-Bissau's** "Strengthening health management information systems to assess the impact of SMC in three regions in Guinea Bissau" project has been obtained.
- Data is being collected for **Niger's** "Applying updated WHO SMC guidelines in Niger" project.

New Resources



[SMC Alliance 2024 Annual meeting presentations](#)

Presentations from the 2024 SMC Alliance Annual meeting are now available [online](#) on the SMC Alliance website. Learn more from countries about innovations and lessons learnt.



[SMC Alliance video with experiences from Ghana, Togo and Niger](#)

Exploring the transformative impact of Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention in Niger, Ghana, and Togo, this [documentary](#) presents tangible benefits experienced by families and communities.

Together, we're forging a healthier, malaria-free future!



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