



EDCTP

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OPT-SMC World Malaria day 2025 Newsletter



The OPT-SMC project comes to an end!

After more than four years of implementation, the Optimizing Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention project being implemented in 13 countries in the Sahel Region of Africa - Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo - is coming to an end with many successes to celebrate and lessons learnt for future projects. Implementing partners are working with countries to complete their projects and develop their research papers. Learn more below.

We would like to thank you for working together with us us to ensure SMC reaches more children to protect them from malaria.

News



[The OPT-SMC Team celebrates World Malaria Day 2025 with many successes as it brings the project to a close.](#)

National Malaria Programme (NMP) representatives testified that the OPT-SMC project has helped them improve upon their research and monitoring capabilities. The project has also helped them gather better evidence on the burden of malaria among young children which will be useful for outreach to potential donors in the future.



Dr. Fatimata Bintou Sall shares her thoughts on the project in this [video](#).



[OPT-SMC team hosts a writing workshop in Dakar, Senegal](#)

The OPT-SMC team held a writing workshop during the last week of March 2025 in Dakar to support countries in the final stages of developing their manuscripts to complete their manuscript. Countries in attendance include Mali, Cameroon, Togo and Senegal.



[SMC Alliance convened in Togo for 8th Annual meeting](#)

The 8th annual meeting of the Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention Alliance (SMC), was held at the 2 Février hotel in Lomé Togo. The meeting convened several stakeholders across Africa in the malaria sector with the aim of assessing progress

made in the fight against malaria to strengthen prevention strategies.



[The OPT-SMC Team meets in Lomé to wrap up its project findings](#)

The OPT-SMC project met for the final time in Lomé, Togo to discuss the final laps of the project. All implementing countries were in attendance at the meeting and discussed how to sustain the results achieved from the project.

Upcoming events



[25th April 2025 - World Malaria Day 2025](#) [- Reinvest, Reimagine, Reignite](#)

The 2025 World Malaria Day theme, "Reinvest, Reimagine and Reignite", aims to raise awareness about the urgent actions needed in the fight against malaria, emphasizing the importance of continued investment, innovation, collaboration and commitment from the global malaria eradication community.



[19- 27th May 2025 - 78th World Health Assembly](#)

This year's World Health Assembly will feature discussions on the six strategic themes for WHO: climate change; ii) addressing determinants of health and root causes of ill health; iii) advancing the primary healthcare approach and essential health system capacities for universal health coverage; iv) improving health service coverage and financial protection; v) preventing, mitigating and preparing for health risks from all hazards; and vi) rapidly detecting and sustaining response to health emergencies.



[15 to 20 Jun 2025 - 12th EDCTP Forum](#)

The biennial European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) Forum provides an international platform for the presentation and discussion of the latest research addressing the burden of poverty-related and neglected infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa and the capacity development and networking activities supporting this goal.

New Resources



[SMC Alliance 2025 Annual meeting presentations](#)

From the 25th to the 28th of February, members of the SMC Alliance met to share experiences and lessons learnt from the implementation of their SMC programmes over the previous year. All presentations delivered are available [here](#).



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Country updates



Benin: The team completed their project in 2022 on "Monitoring the effectiveness of SMC in northern Benin during the 2020 & 2021 campaigns"

Burkina Faso: Findings from the "Evaluating the determinants of SMC coverage between urban and rural areas" study which were presented at the 2023 EDCTP conference, have been used to develop a pilot study, during the 4th cycle of the 2024 SMC campaign, on improving community

engagement in urban areas in areas of Bobo-Dioulasso and Ouagadougou. The findings are now being written up.

Cameroon: The team attended the writing workshop in Senegal to finalise their paper "Optimising Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention in Cameroon by using neighbourhood leaders and parasite surveys to improve coverage, adherence and timing of SMC in the far north region of Cameroon."

Ghana: The team met with the OPT-SMC at SMC Alliance in Togo to review their paper: "Implementing Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention (SMC) in Ghana during the COVID-19 pandemic: Coverage and predictors for uptake and adherence" and are currently finalising the paper.

Guinea's paper "Redesigning the SMC strategy to ensure improved uptake in the Siguiri mining district of Guinea in 2021" is currently being reviewed by the OPT-SMC team and will soon be ready for publication.

Guinea-Bissau: A consultant visited the Guinea-Bissau team in March 2025 to support their project on "Strengthening health management information systems to assess the impact of SMC in three regions in Guinea Bissau". A workshop was carried out with the National Malaria Programme and Instituto Nacional Saúde Pública (INASA) to provide training on malaria surveillance and how to use their data to analyse the impact of SMC on malaria in children under 5 years of age.

Mali: The team attended the writing workshop in Senegal to finalise their paper "Evaluation of SMC using three approaches: DOT3, community SMC

and the Standard SMC to improve coverage and adherence to SMC in Mali."

Nigeria: The OPT-SMC team are working with the Nigerian team to develop a second paper from the qualitative study in 5 states" project.

Senegal's "Modelling projects to choose the optimal number and timing of cycles of SMC" and "Cost Effectiveness of SMC" 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: The team attended the writing workshop in Dakar and are now finalising the paper "Defining optimal SMC strategies in Togo"



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