



October 2024

## **Consultancy Terms of reference: Documenting learnings and good practice from the SMC Alliance**

**Reference: MC-UK-TOR-2024-10-009 – SMC Alliance**

### **Background**

Seasonal malaria Chemoprevention (SMC) is a highly effective community-based intervention to prevent malaria in areas where malaria morbidity and mortality are high and malaria transmission is seasonal. It involves the intermittent administration of a curative dose of antimalarial medicine during the peak malaria season to children within age groups at risk of severe malaria, regardless of whether the child is infected with malaria. In 2022, SMC was implemented in 17 African countries, targeting around 49 million children. Since 2013, the SMC Alliance has served as a platform that brings together stakeholders with an interest in SMC, from national malaria programmes of SMC-implementing countries, multilateral agencies, donors, research institutes and implementing partners. There are currently plans to create a platform for collaboration and coordination among different malaria chemoprevention strategies. The SMC Alliance could serve as a model for the creation of such a platform.

### **Purpose and scope**

Malaria Consortium is recruiting for this consultancy on behalf of the SMC Alliance.

The purpose of this consultancy is to document the working mechanisms of the SMC Alliance and the principles that underpinned the successful work of the SMC Alliance over the past decade. The consultancy will also gather input from a broad range of stakeholders to gauge their needs and requirements in terms of collaboration and coordination across the chemoprevention community, as well as identify potential synergies that could be leveraged through a platform modelled on the SMC Alliance. This consultancy will focus on malaria chemoprevention strategies targeting children, i.e., perennial malaria chemoprevention (PMC), intermittent preventive treatment of malaria in school-aged children (IPTsc) and post-discharge malaria chemoprevention (PDMC), in addition to SMC.

Consultancy outputs will be used by the SMC Alliance and other interested stakeholders to inform efforts to create a platform for collaboration and coordination across the malaria chemoprevention community. Those efforts are not within the scope of this consultancy.

### **Reporting and contract management**

The consultancy contract will be managed by the advocacy and communications sub-group of the SMC Alliance. As the subgroup's secretariat, Malaria Consortium's SMC Programme Director will be the main point of contact for day-to-day management of the consultancy. A steering group for this consultancy, consisting of members of the SMC Alliance and other interested stakeholders from the wider malaria chemoprevention community, will be formed to provide feedback and input throughout the consultancy as required.

## Specific tasks

- a) *Document SMC Alliance history, working mechanisms, funding, facilitators and barriers to successful collaboration and coordination*
- Consult with the steering group to compile a list of past and present SMC Alliance members representing the different constituencies of the Alliance, who can provide feedback on:
    - History and evolution of the SMC Alliance
    - Ways of working and decision-making
    - Funding sources
    - Facilitators and barriers to successful collaboration and coordination through the SMC Alliance
  - Propose appropriate methods for eliciting feedback from stakeholders (e.g. online survey, interviews)
  - Discuss and agree to methods for eliciting feedback from stakeholders with the steering group and conduct the feedback gathering exercise as agreed to
  - Summarise and analyse feedback received, identify themes and point out areas of broad agreement or disagreement among stakeholders, as well as the reasons and motivation for changes over time
- b) *Document malaria chemoprevention stakeholders' needs and requirements in terms of collaboration and coordination across the chemoprevention community*
- Consult with the steering group to compile a list of malaria chemoprevention stakeholders representing the different constituencies of the community, who can provide feedback on their needs and requirements in terms of collaboration and coordination across the community (focusing on stakeholders representing SMC, PMC, IPTsc and PDMC)
  - Propose appropriate methods for eliciting feedback from stakeholders (e.g., online survey, interviews)
  - Discuss and agree to methods with the steering group and conduct the feedback gathering exercise as agreed to
  - Summarise and analyse feedback received, identify themes and point out areas of broad agreement or disagreement among stakeholders
- c) *Reporting*
- Present preliminary findings to SMC Alliance members during a regular SMC Alliance call
  - Taking into account feedback from SMC Alliance members, compile a written report that includes the following for feedback from the steering group:
    - Summary of findings from points a) and b) above
    - Based on those findings, a discussion of areas of potential synergies between different types of stakeholders
    - Discussion of how synergies identified could be leveraged through a platform modelled on the SMC Alliance
    - Recommendations for strengthening collaboration and coordination across the malaria chemoprevention community
  - Produce final report taking into account feedback from the steering group
  - Present summary of results at the annual meeting of the SMC Alliance

**Deliverables:**

- Presentation of preliminary results to the SMC Alliance
- Draft report for feedback from the steering group
- Final report based on feedback received
- Presentation of final results
- Anonymised data sets

**Duration:**

The assignment is expected to take a maximum of 20 working days, to be completed by February 2025. Applications should include a proposed breakdown of activities and timelines, but the following broad outline of the work is anticipated:

- Consultations with the steering group on stakeholders whose feedback will be sought (1 day, October 2024)
- Develop methods for data collection and agree those with the steering group (3 days, October 2024)
- Data collection (7 days, October/November 2024)
- Discussion of preliminary results with steering group (1 day, November 2024)
- Presentation of preliminary results to SMC Alliance (1 day, November 2024)
- Draft report and share with steering group (4 days, November/December 2024)
- Finalise report based on feedback received (2 days, December 2024)
- Presentation of results at the annual meeting of the SMC Alliance (1 day, February 2025)

**Qualifications:**

- At least 10 years of experience in the malaria sector
- Familiarity with the public health landscape in Africa, particularly in malaria control
- Demonstrable expertise in malaria chemoprevention
- Familiarity with the evolution and ways of working of the SMC Alliance or similar stakeholder group
- Strong analytical skills
- Strong report writing skills
- Proficiency in French is an advantage

**Submission of applications:**

Interested consultants or firms are invited to submit a proposal that includes:

- CV outlining relevant experience and qualifications. For firms, CVs of focal persons for this TOR should be submitted.
- A brief outline of their approach to the scope of work.
- A high-level workplan with timelines for key deliverables; a proposed breakdown of activities and timelines, following the broad outline of the work in the Duration section of this TOR.
- Daily rate in USD or GBP.

Applications should be submitted to [tenders@malariaconsortium.org](mailto:tenders@malariaconsortium.org) and in the subject field of the email reference the following: **MC-UK-TOR-2024-2024-10-009 – SMC Alliance**.

Applications should be submitted any time before Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 17:00 GMT+1 (5pm UK time). Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.

Questions may be sent by email to [tenders@malariaconsortium.org](mailto:tenders@malariaconsortium.org) with the following reference in the subject: MC-UK-TOR-2024-2024-10-009 – SMC Alliance – Question.