

Concept Note

## **RBM VCWG webinar**

### **Addressing non-biological threats to the impact of ITNs Towards improved ITN quality**

**Date:** Tuesday 29 October 2024

**Time:** 14:00 – 16:00 CEST (Geneva time)

**Expected participants:** Ministry of Health staff, NMCP staff, procurers of ITNs, researchers, industry partners, implementers, multi-laterals, etc.

**Registration link:**

[https://swisstph.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrdOuorz4oGtOO4ZZ65IT52Nr-F91hT\\_U6](https://swisstph.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrdOuorz4oGtOO4ZZ65IT52Nr-F91hT_U6)

**Please submit any questions you have about the quality of ITNs and the WHO ITN prequalification process ahead of the webinar by 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024 using the following link:** <https://swisstph.wufoo.com/forms/s18l0utd0hwmnzt/>

**Introduction:**

Insecticide-treated nets (ITNs) have been a cornerstone in malaria prevention across many endemic regions, significantly reducing the burden of the disease over the past decades. However, in recent years, the quality and performance of Long-Lasting Insecticide treated Nets (LLINs) have faced increased scrutiny, with reports suggesting they may not last the expected three years in the field. It is therefore crucial to ensure that LLINs available for widespread use in disease endemic communities meet the quality standards.

The RBM Vector Control Working Group (VCWG) will host a webinar in collaboration with the WHO PQT/VCP team to raise awareness about the procedures, requirements and assessments implemented by WHO/PQ to ensure quality standards for ITNS and consistency of production.

**Objectives:**

1. To provide an overview of the role of ITNs in the malaria control and the challenges associated with their durability and quality.

2. To raise awareness about the latest updates in the WHO vector control product prequalification process towards ensuring the availability of high-quality ITNs.
3. To address inquiries about the WHO ITN prequalification assessment process and requirements related to quality, safety and efficacy.
4. To identify new priorities for the VCWG/WS1 Task Team 2 for galvanising efforts towards enhancing the quality and durability of ITNs and offering a platform for information sharing and collaboration.

### Expected Outcomes:

1. Information on updated WHO PQT/VCP ITN prequalification guidelines and their relevance to the quality of ITNs are shared with all partners of the VCWG
2. Information gaps around efforts to ensure quality ITNs are identified and addressed
3. Key priorities for coordinating VCWG partners' efforts to enhance ITN quality under the VCWG/WS1 Task Team 2 are identified

### Agenda (Running time: 120 mins, chaired by Dr Corine Ngufor, LSHTM)

Time	Title	Total Time	Speaker
<b>Opening session</b>			
14:00-14:05	Welcome	5 minutes	Dr Corine Ngufor (LSHTM)
14:05-14:10	Opening remarks	5 minutes	Dr Michael Charles (RBM CEO)
14:10 – 14:20	Overview of RBM VCWG	10 minutes	Dr El Hadji Amadou Niang (Cheikh Anta Diop University, Senegal)
14:20-14:30	Objectives of the meeting: role of ITNs and the challenges of ITN durability and quality	10 minutes	Dr Corine Ngufor (LSHTM)
<b>WHO PQ Vector Control Product information session</b>			
14:30-14:50	Overview of the activities of the WHO/PQ VCP team	20 minutes	Dominic Schuler (WHO/PQ VCP)
14:50-15:20	New ITN guidelines and implications for improved ITN quality	30 minutes	Dr Geraldine Foster (WHO/PQ VCP)
15:20-15:40	Q and A session (responses to submitted questions and some live questions from the audience)	20 minutes	Dr Corine Ngufor (LSHTM)
<b>Way forward and wrap up</b>			
15:40-15:50	VCWG WS1 TT2 priorities for ITN quality and durability	15 minutes	Dr Christen Fornadel (IVCC)/Dr Ketty Ndhlovu (NMCP, Zambia)
15:50-16:00	Wrap-up and next steps	5 minutes	Dr Corine Ngufor (LSHTM)