

# Identifying operational research and program evaluation priorities for malaria case management for the sub-Saharan Africa region

Case Management Working Group Meeting  
June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**PMI**

U.S. PRESIDENT'S  
MALARIA INITIATIVE

LED BY



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



**PMI Insights**

# Background

- Limited opportunities available to coordinate and identify pressing gaps in research that have broader relevance across multiple countries or for the global malaria community.
- Limited resources available for OR and PE; thus, need for prioritization of research areas for greater collaboration, efficiency and impact of research efforts.
- Interest of PMI, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and The Global Fund, to align research investments with country-identified research priorities.

**PMI**

U.S. PRESIDENT'S  
MALARIA INITIATIVE

LED BY



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



**PMI Insights**

# Prioritization objectives

**1** Facilitate a process with national malaria programs, malaria-endemic research and implementing partners, and funding agencies to identify a set of country-driven research priorities to address the most pressing evidence gaps and operational bottlenecks in malaria control and elimination.

**2** Foster alignment between country priorities and those of funding agencies to support improved coordination, collaboration, efficiency, and impact of research efforts.

# Prioritization scope

- OR and PE questions for malaria control and elimination interventions that have promising evidence demonstrating their safety and efficacy and for approaches and tools designed to improve the delivery and effectiveness of proven malaria control and elimination interventions.
- Scope **does not** encompass “upstream” research related to the early development of new tools, nor routine entomological monitoring for evaluating insecticide resistance or therapeutic efficacy studies of antimalarials.
- Aimed to identify common OR and PE questions that could provide learning to inform multiple national malaria programs’ strategies, policies, or implementation; or the malaria community more broadly.

PMI

U.S. PRESIDENT'S  
MALARIA INITIATIVE

LED BY



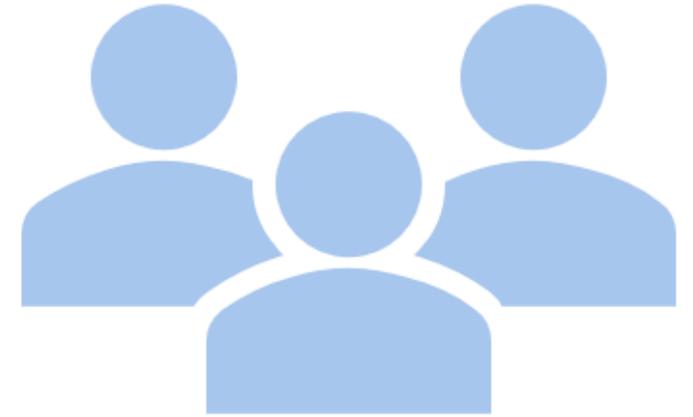
**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



**PMI Insights**

# Stakeholders engaged in prioritization

1. National malaria program representatives
2. Research institutions from malaria-endemic countries
3. Donor agency staff from PMI, Gates, and Global Fund
4. WHO Global Malaria Program staff at country and regional level
5. Global technical partners who support research and implementation in malaria-endemic countries



# Prioritization process



U.S. PRESIDENT'S  
MALARIA INITIATIVE

LED BY



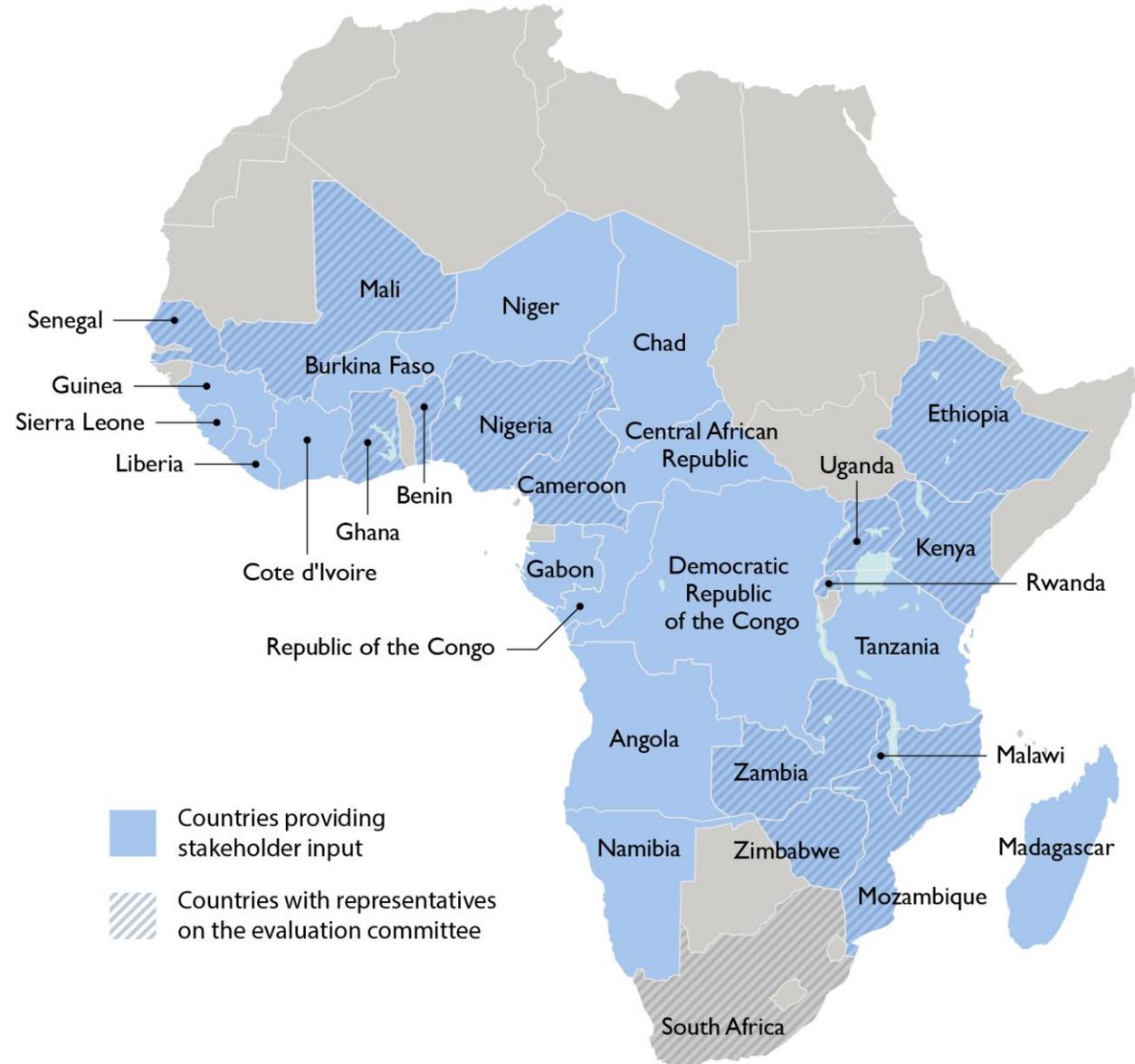
**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



# Stakeholder consultations

## Consultations Completed

- Interviews with:
  - 14 national malaria programs
  - 11 research institutions in SSA
  - 4 interviews with WHO representatives across 6 countries
  - 18 interviews with funding agency staff (PMI, BMGF, GF)
- Online survey
  - 46 respondents within inputs from 18 countries in SSA



# Selection of research priorities for evaluation

- Included OR and PE topics/questions that were identified by 3 or more NMPs and/or malaria-endemic research institutions as key questions.
- Included OR and PE topics/questions that were identified by 3 or more stakeholder groups and/or the document review.
- Altogether, **33 OR and PE topics** emerged from the synthesis of inputs from stakeholder consultations and the document review.

PMI

U.S. PRESIDENT'S  
MALARIA INITIATIVE

LED BY



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



**PMI Insights**

# Evaluation process

- Formed an external evaluation committee made up of 17 malaria experts from NMPs, research institutions, and WHO.
- Committee members evaluated and scored identified research priorities against a set of defined evaluation criteria. Scores were used to rank priorities.
- Committee convened to review and discuss the rankings of the research priorities.

**PMI**

U.S. PRESIDENT'S  
MALARIA INITIATIVE

LED BY



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



**PMI Insights**

# Case management priorities

	Research priority	Overall Rank
1	Test and evaluate approaches or interventions to reduce the frequency of stockouts of key commodities for malaria case management, especially at community level.	3
2	Assess factors associated with volunteer CHW cadres' motivation and retention and evaluate different approaches or interventions to improve volunteer CHW motivation and retention.	7
3	Assess structural and behavioral factors associated with delayed care-seeking across different population groups and compare different strategies to decrease delays in care-seeking.	15
4	Assess predictors of adherence and non-adherence to case management treatment guidelines among health care providers and test/evaluate different strategies to improve adherence to guidelines.	16
5	Test and evaluate interventions to improve adherence to malaria treatment guidelines and reporting in private sector health facilities.	20
6	Evaluate different strategies to improve health care worker adherence to IMCI guidelines.	27
7	Test different approaches for working with/incentivizing participation and collaboration of the private sector in the referral, diagnosis, treatment, and reporting of malaria cases.	32

Notes: Overall rank denotes the rank of the priority out of all 33 identified research priorities.

# Key takeaways from prioritization

1. Research priorities reflect persistent challenges faced by NMPs in the implementation of core interventions; addressing the priorities can help support NMPs to reach high coverage and improve overall intervention effectiveness.
2. NMPs have insufficient evidence on effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of specific interventions and intervention packages, and how to tailor packages for maximum impact and resources efficiency.
3. Many of the research priorities speak to broader health systems issues that are contributing to gaps in malaria intervention coverage; these issues need to be addressed to improve effective coverage.



U.S. PRESIDENT'S  
MALARIA INITIATIVE

LED BY



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



**PMI Insights**

# Next steps in prioritization process



Develop a mechanism to track progress against the research priorities and use of the list to inform investments.

---



Define a process to regularly review priorities and update the list to reflect progress and new emerging priorities.

---



# Thank you!

For more information:  
<https://www.insightsmalaria.org/>

**PMI** | U.S. PRESIDENT'S  
MALARIA INITIATIVE

LED BY



**PMI Insights**