

Request for Information PMI Insights for Malaria Program

This is a Request for Information (RFI). This is not a Request for Proposal (RFP) or a Request for Application (RFA) and is not to be construed as a commitment to issue any solicitation or Notice of Funding Opportunity, or ultimately award a contract or assistance agreement on the basis of this RFI, or to pay for any information voluntarily submitted as a result of this request.

This RFI is issued for the purpose of offering the opportunity for interested organizations to express interest and provide information and recommendations on a proposed scope of work to facilitate a stakeholder consultation process to identify key pressing bottlenecks and challenges in malaria control and elimination and develop an operational research and program evaluation research agenda to address the identified bottlenecks and challenges.

Responses must be a maximum of seven pages in length and must focus on addressing the areas outlined in the 'Information Requested' section. Please do not submit applications, proposals, resumes, or promotional materials, as they will be discarded. The electronic submission must be written in English and typed on standard 8 1/2" x 11" paper (216mm by 297mm paper), single spaced, font size 12 with each page numbered consecutively. This RFI will be open from March 22, 2021 through April 12, 2021 at 5PM Eastern Standard Time. Please send all responses to this RFI via email to sherrera@path.org with a copy to procreview@path.org.

Background

The U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) Insights for Malaria (INFORM) project partners with malaria-endemic countries to ensure the most effective and efficient use of resources to fight malaria and save lives. Working in collaboration with national malaria programs (NMPs) and country research institutions, the project designs, implements, and disseminates research that identifies best practices for control and elimination, informs strategies to achieve and maintain high levels of intervention coverage, and guides deployment of new tools and approaches.

As one of its objectives, PMI INFORM in collaboration with NMPs, country research institutions, PMI, and other donors, will facilitate a process to identify country-driven research priorities that will address bottlenecks in malaria control and elimination. Leveraging longstanding trusted relationships at the country, regional, and global levels, the project will engage stakeholders to develop a set of research priorities clearly linked to shortcomings in specific policies, strategic guidance, and/or program guidelines that, when addressed, will contribute to closing critical gaps in effective malaria intervention coverage.

PMI INFORM proposes to use a systematic, consultative, and iterative approach to achieve stakeholder alignment around the defined research priorities. The project team envisions using a mix of approaches for this research prioritization process, including, but not limited to: a document review and synthesis, key informant interviews and group discussions with malaria stakeholders, online surveys to gather inputs, and leveraging existing meetings or technical working groups to gather inputs. The targeted stakeholders for this consultation process include representatives from NMPs, research and implementation partners in malaria endemic settings, donor agencies, and other malaria stakeholders. The resulting research agenda will build upon and aim to align with other malaria research prioritization setting processes that have been recently undertaken at country, regional, or global level. The overall aim of this work will be to

foster greater alignment of research priority areas of NMPs and funding agencies and to inform a more coordinated and aligned approach to donor investments in the identified priority areas.

The scope of the research agenda will be limited to operational research (OR) and program evaluation (PE) questions for malaria control and prevention interventions and approaches that have robust evidence demonstrating their efficacy and safety. It will primarily focus on addressing the collection of OR and PE evidence needed for improved and more detailed policies, strategies, and implementation guidelines at the national and subnational level that may complement broader World Health Organization policy and guidance documents. The geographic scope for the consultative process will be primarily focused on PMI focus countries.

Proposed Scope of Work

To support the implementation of this activity, PATH seeks expressions of interest from interested institutions to support and facilitate the research prioritization consultative process. The specific tasks under this scope of work are:

1. Support the development of the research prioritization protocol outlining the methodology and approach, and tools for the stakeholder consultations (e.g., key informant interview and group discussion guides, online survey questionnaires, etc.).
2. Organize and lead the facilitation of key informant interviews and group discussions with NMP staff and in-country research and implementation partners.
3. Transcribe and translate interviews and group discussions as needed.
4. Support gathering relevant country documents and contacts for further consultation based on the inputs provided during the interviews/group discussions with the NMPs and country partners.
5. Support the synthesis of the findings from the stakeholder consultation process in collaboration with the PATH team.
6. Participate in the evaluation process of the research priorities identified during the stakeholder consultations and document review.
7. Co-facilitate virtual workshops or meetings with engaged stakeholders to gather feedback on the prioritized research agenda and garner buy-in around the research agenda.

PATH is looking for an institution that has strong ties and relationships with other country NMPs and research institutions in Africa. The institution will demonstrate diverse expertise across the different technical areas of malaria control and elimination (e.g., vector control; malaria case management; chemoprevention; surveillance, monitoring and evaluation; supply chain management; social and behavior change) and across the continuum of malaria transmission, and possess experience in carrying out consultative processes and/or qualitative research. The institution will ideally possess French and English language capabilities.

The anticipated timeframe for this scope of work is from April – September 2021.

Information Requested

PATH requests that interested organizations send a brief response (must be a maximum of 7 pages total) with the following information: comments on scope of work (up to 2 pages), including initial suggested modifications, if any; the relevant institutional capabilities and relevant previous work (up to 3 pages); and a detailed description of proposed individuals who will support this work (up to 2 pages). This information should include: the size of the proposed

team, each member's relevant skills and experience, and proposed level of effort for each member of the team.