

Terms of Reference for consultancy to support strengthening of malaria performance measurement for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB & Malaria (GFATM) with a focus on driving programme prioritization, optimization and sub-national tailoring.

This work will be funded and contracted by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in collaboration with and support of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB & Malaria.

Background

- Until recently Global Fund's operations presided over a year-on-year increase in global funding to malaria, due to its own resources and those from PMI, other donors and countries.
- At the same time the cost of core interventions such as bed nets dramatically decreased.
- Despite the inherently heterogeneous distribution of malaria (with risk determined by both who you are and where you live) these macro-trends meant a rapid increase in coverage from a low baseline, outstripping population growth, yielded significant impact with reductions in cases and deaths.
- In the last few years this situation has changed, with malaria funding plateauing, resistance emerging to blunt traditional tools; and COVID-19 creating additional challenges cases and deaths in Africa have risen.
- At the same time new tools exist to choose from, and this will only grow as the innovation pipeline delivers over coming years. Market shaping interventions will be critical to ensuring these are as affordable and accessible as possible.
- All this means a more tailored approach to the use of malaria resources and a focused effort on determining bottlenecks and intervention effectiveness at a sub-national level is urgently needed if gains are to continue. While many countries are already advanced in this, others are at an early stage.
- With support from the World Health Organization and other partners, countries are leading the process of Sub-National Tailoring. The WHO is finalizing an operational manual to support countries in this process. The approach requires using a wide range of data (epidemiology, entomology, resistance, cost of tools etc) to stratify programmes by both the mix of intervention types, intensity of support needed in implementation, and an increased focus on problem solving at a local level; a more adaptive approach to programme management.
- It requires greater data/surveillance, diagnostic/laboratory and analytic capacity to inform the approach; and changes in health system management (supply chain, training, supervision etc) to implement it.
- It needs to be situated within broader efforts to prioritize health resources (e.g. rational integration of malaria interventions into a prioritized essential health care package); recognizing there is a point where the management and logistic burden of overly complex sub-national tailoring will outweigh the benefits and be difficult to evaluate.
- The potential gains are particularly important for malaria prevention. Even within the category of bednet for example there are choices in the type and cost of bed net to purchase and the same single bednet's effectiveness will vary depending on use, physical durability, and insecticidal durability which will differ where and how it is used.
- Digitization offers opportunities for improving data quality, driving efficiency (for example through digital campaign platforms), measuring effectiveness and investigating and addressing implementation issues at the local level. Investments in data and its use will need to come out of existing budgets and demonstrate their value through increased impact.
- The Global Fund Board is in the process of agreeing its Key Performance Indicators for the new strategy period but beyond this there is a need to ensure measurement at the Secretariat and individual grant level supports this shift to a more tailored approach, with a greater focus on geographically

differentiating targets and measuring processes and outcomes. Indicators need to support the pathway to maturity of the sub-nationally tailored response recognizing it will be gradual.

Objectives

Provide specific proposals for new data sources, collection methods and indicators to provide granular and timely data for decision-making including to support subnational planning and GF grant assessments.

Deliverables

- **Review of current malaria indicators and data sources:**
 - Review indicators for robustness, current use and ability to drive sub-national tailoring.
 - Summarize current common data sources and methods: Strengths, weaknesses and gaps
 - Categorize indicators into 1) Indicators that should be kept in their current form; 2) Indicators that could be adjusted or require improvements in data to be useful; 3) Indicators that mis-incentivize ineffective programme approaches; 4) Indicators/information that we do not currently have but need (e.g. bednet use, SMC coverage).
- **Review of current RSSH indicators:**
 - Review indicators for ability to help support sub-national tailoring (e.g. capacity to carry out analysis to inform prioritization).
 - Summarize current common data sources and methods and overlap with malaria-specific (e.g. DHISII, DHS)
- **Proposal for new indicators and methods:**
 - Building on the above propose a set of 'fit for purpose' malaria and RSSH indicators for the Board, Secretariat and country level. This will start with the ideal and then take a pragmatic approach to making recommendations given current data limitations and viable data investments.
 - The work will also make recommendations for ways to fill data gaps, including creative use of available sources and new methods to enable more granular targeting of resources.
- **Challenges and risks**
 - Highlight any challenges and risks associated with this agenda that come up in the course of the work.

Key findings will be presented in a report, including a stand-alone summary, and presentations aimed at internal and external stakeholders. The format will be agreed with the core BMGF, GF and WHO team.

Essential skills and experience

- Knowledge and experience of Global Fund operations at HQ and country level. Existing links with Global Fund and country partners desirable.
- Knowledge of WHO policy and guidance in this area. Existing relationships with WHO GMP desirable.
- Strong M&E and analytic skills and experience of malaria programme implementation
- Specific knowledge and experience of malaria sub-national tailoring approach.

Supporting information and documentation to inform approach

- Previous and proposed board KPIs and grant performance indicators for new Global Fund Strategy (2023-6).
- Recordings of GF consultation meetings used to inform indicator development for new Global Fund Strategy (to be made available to successful group)
- Draft WHO SNT manual (to be made available to successful group)
- Introductions to key groups within the Global Fund HQ and at the country level.

Approach

- Interested groups should provide a short 2-page note outlining the time, cost and recommended approach to deliver against the objective and deliverables outlined above.