



Partnership To End Malaria

SMERG UPDATE

Médoune Ndiop
NMCP Senegal, MERG Co-Chair

Change of Name and Leadership

- MERG is now officially Surveillance, Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group (SMERG)
 - The name change has been prompted to emphasize on surveillance, which is now a core intervention.
 - SMERG will work with all its partners to implement the Surveillance components in collaboration with WHO/GMP
- RBM/SMERG leadership
 - Arantxa Roca (Malaria Consortium), as a co-Chair, transition out of the position and has been replaced by Molly Robertson (PATH, US) who will be working with Medoune Ndiop (NMCP, Senegal), the second co-Chair.

Surveillance Practice and Data Quality

- Surveillance practice and data quality committee (SP&DQ) was created under SMERG to focus on surveillance
- Arantxa Roca, former SMERG co-Chair, will lead this Committee funded by the Bill Gates Foundation.
- Purpose of the committee:
 - To improve the visibility of surveillance and data quality improvement initiatives and to streamline global coordination of surveillance-related efforts.

Surveillance Practice and Data Quality (*Cont.*)

- Specific objectives:
 - Disseminate through SMERG, information on implementing partners' current use of surveillance operational tools, and improve implementation and partner coordination relating to their use and uptake
 - Dynamically monitor initiatives and the implementation of associated tools and practices and provide updates to the SMERG whenever necessary.
 - Document pros and cons of monitoring and data quality tools and activities, as well as lessons learned from their implementation through SMERG Secretariat.
 - Identify, the operational surveillance priorities of the National Malaria Control Programmes (NMCPs) through the SMERG Secretariat to further support the uptake and adaptation of the tools.
- Hosted a meeting on *RBM SMERG SP&DQ Committee Informative Session* to introduce the committee to SMERG members
- Currently developing the Terms of reference for the committee
- For further details on the committee, click here ([Link](#))

NMCP Needs Assessment Survey

- Survey Objective
 - To get a better understanding of the malaria surveillance, monitoring and evaluation needs at a country program level
 - To obtain recommendations from NMCPs on helpful and needed tools
 - To better understand how the SMERG can address needs of NMCPs
- Preliminary result was presented during the 31st SMERG meeting in September 2020 (slides are accessible at [Link](#))
- Planning for a follow up meeting for further discussion on way forward.
 - Date: Tuesday, 2nd March 2021

Achievements Related to COVID-19

- Developed the guidance document on Monitoring and evaluation of malaria-related routine data during the COVID-19 pandemic (<https://endmalaria.org/our-work-working-groups/monitoring-and-evaluation>)
- Hosted series of webinars in 2020 in English, French and Portuguese with members to orientate them on the guidance document-The recordings for these webinars can be found at the following links:
- English <https://drive.google.com/file/d/19lcqVhR0R96nKW8c4aPRsIIA1ldmuu0L/view?usp=sharing>
- French <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yih0YZemg-levO4x4-ABtvjPBMeOi1Lh/view?usp=sharing>
- Portuguese https://drive.google.com/file/d/18h11eaV4UYf57_IUav_m855cwUYLd-Ca/view?usp=sharing

Follow up from SMERG 31st Virtual meeting

- Meeting held September 23-25, 2020
- Great attendance: 103 participants
- Action items prepared and shared with members to set priority action – Secretariat finalizing the list to share back to members by end of February
- Meeting report is accessible through [\(Link\)](#)

Planning for SMERG 32nd meeting

- Given the COVID-19 context the meeting will be virtual
- Tentative period: First week of May 2022
- Engaging with the members to agree on the focus of the meeting
- Drafting agenda will start soon in March



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