

## JOB DESCRIPTION

<b>Job title</b>	Project Epidemiologist – Beyond Garki
<b>Department</b>	Technical
<b>Reports to</b>	Principal Investigator, Beyond Garki Project
<b>Direct reports from</b>	None
<b>Indirect reports from</b>	Relevant staff of Malaria Consortium country offices, Project staff

### Organisational background

Malaria Consortium is one of the world's leading non-profit organisations dedicated to the comprehensive control of malaria and other communicable diseases in Africa and Southeast Asia. Malaria Consortium works with communities, government and non-government agencies, academic institutions, and local and international organisations, to ensure good evidence supports delivery of effective services, providing technical support for monitoring and evaluation of programmes and activities for evidence-based decision-making and strategic planning. The organisation works to improve not only the health of the individual, but also the capacity of national health systems, which helps relieve poverty and support improved economic prosperity.

### Project background

Inadequate focus has been given to malaria elimination as a target in Sub-Saharan Africa where transmission intensity is the highest in the world and control activities are challenged by several factors such as weak health systems, political instability or social problems. Adding to this, the emergence of resistance of mosquitoes to insecticides and resistance of parasites to current drugs have become major threats. Nonetheless, in a number of highly endemic countries a decline in overall child mortality and the burden of malaria have been recorded.

In order to support effective strategies, it is essential to understand more about how control measures are contributing to this decline but also the changing patterns of malaria in each country, as the disease becomes more unevenly distributed.

Malaria Consortium is keen to contribute to efforts towards malaria elimination in areas with high transmission potential. The Beyond Garki Project was developed to monitor changes in malaria epidemiology in relation to multiple interventions in selected African countries with high malaria endemicity and assessment of the necessary conditions to reduce transmission below the critical level. The project is planned for initial implementation in Uganda and Nigeria but may be expanded to other countries. Epidemiological changes will be monitored, factors that may lead to pre-elimination settings will be assessed, and the outcomes of changes in strategies will be demonstrated as health services adapt to dynamic situations and control efforts are consolidated.

## **Job purpose**

To provide technical assistance to the Beyond Garki Project, especially in study design, selection and set up of field sites, training of staff, coordination and supervision of activities in all project sites, liaison with partners and collaborators, data management and analysis, and developing scientific reports.

## **Key accountabilities**

- Contributes to the overall planning and development of the project, using an appropriate epidemiological study design. Coordinates country-specific planning of project activities.
- Contributes to the development of the study protocol/proposal and develops standard operating procedures.
- Develops the necessary documents for ethical clearance submission in each country.
- Develops data collection tools, designs an appropriate database system for the entry, storage and retrieval of survey data.
- Prepares list of survey equipment and supplies with their specifications, including automatic meteorological stations, personal digital assistants (PDAs), geographic positioning system (GPS) equipment, microscopes and reagents etc, and develops purchase requisitions.
- Organises and takes part in all field staff training programmes.
- Liaises with partners and collaborators on matters related to the project. Particularly, works closely with the National Malaria Control Programmes and other health service departments responsible for Monitoring and Evaluation and Health Management Information System at all levels.
- Oversees and supervises all field activities, including regular surveys and special studies, to ensure high quality standards.
- Prepares and disseminates regular progress reports, and monitors financial expenditures based on budget plans.
- Prepares epidemiological data for analysis and takes part in statistical data analysis and mathematical modeling of malaria epidemiology and control. Develops scientific reports and publications.

## **PERSON SPECIFICATION**

### **Qualifications and experience**

#### **Essential**

- A post-graduate degree in epidemiology.
- Research experience in and advanced knowledge of malaria epidemiology.
- Field experience in communicable disease prevention and control in a Sub-Saharan African country.
- Advanced knowledge of statistical and data management software, especially Stata and EpiData.

#### **Desirable**

- Experience in coordinating a multi-country epidemiological research.
- Knowledge of mathematical modelling of infectious diseases.

### **Work-based skills and competencies**

**Essential**

- Excellent written and oral communication and interpersonal skills.
- Advanced skills in the use of Microsoft Office software.
- Experience in design, implementation and analysis of household surveys.

**Desirable**

- Skills in database programming for field surveys, especially using PDAs.

**OTHER KEY INFORMATION**

Job type	Full time
Length of contract	2 years
Location	Kampala, Uganda
Travel involved	30-40%