

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job title:	Research Coordinator SMC	Location:	Moroto Field Offices
Department:	Technical	Length of contract:	1 year
Role type:	National	Grade:	9
Travel involved:	Up to 20% travel to field sites on a regular basis	Safeguarding level:	2, moderate risk
Reporting to:	Line manager: Project Manager SMC Dotted line manager: Senior Country Technical Coordinator	Direct reports:	Temporary research assistants and data collectors

Organisational background

Established in 2003, Malaria Consortium is one of the world's leading non-profit organisations specialising in the prevention, control and treatment of malaria and other communicable diseases among vulnerable populations.

Our mission is to improve lives in Africa and Asia through sustainable, evidence-based programmes that combat targeted diseases and promote child and maternal health.

We will accomplish this together with partners and all levels of government, by:

- designing and implementing cutting edge research, surveillance and monitoring and evaluation;
- selectively scaling up and delivering sustainable evidence-based health programmes;
- providing technical assistance and consulting services that shape and strengthen national and international health policies, strategies and systems and build local capacity;
- seeking to ensure that our experience, thought leadership, practical findings and research results are effectively communicated and contribute to the coordinated improvement of access to and quality of healthcare.

Our areas of expertise include:

- disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment
- disease control and elimination
- health systems strengthening
- research, monitoring and evaluation leading to best practice
- behaviour change communication
- national and international advocacy, and policy development

Country and project background

Since 2003, Malaria Consortium Uganda, has established herself as a leading technical research and implementing organisation for holistic malaria and childhood disease control in the country. Today we are managing multi-donor projects working in over 90% of the districts in all four administrative regions of Uganda. We have offices in Kampala, Hoima, Kabarole, Masaka, Arua, Lira, Gulu, Mbale and Karamoja. Kampala is also the home to our East and southern Africa Regional Office, giving the Uganda

country programme ready access to technical, operational, financial and programme management experts.

We work closely with the Ugandan Ministry of Health at national and sub-national levels to strengthen staff capacity and provide technical support for the control of malaria and other childhood diseases. We are experts in long lasting insecticidal net (LLIN) distribution, including mass distribution campaigns as well as routine distribution through antenatal care facilities and schools as well as private sector coupon systems. Malaria Consortium Uganda is the Pioneer and the largest implementer of Integrated Community Case management. At the moment we are the largest implementer of USAID and DFID funded malaria programs, in Uganda, MAPD and SURMA which is the first and only Malaria Consortium's USAID primed project.

To prevent malaria in those most vulnerable to the disease's effects in areas where malaria transmission is seasonal, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends seasonal malaria chemoprevention (SMC). SMC is the intermittent administration of monthly courses of sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine (SP) and amodiaquine (AQ), or SPAQ, to children between 3 and 59 months during the rainy season. Malaria Consortium has been a leading implementer of SMC since the WHO issued its recommendation to scale up the intervention in 2012. In 2020, the programme aims to reach around 11 million children in Burkina Faso, Chad and Nigeria, mainly using philanthropic funding received as a result of being awarded Top Charity status by GiveWell.

Due to a widespread of resistance to SP in East and Southern Africa, SMC has so far only been implemented across the Sahel region of West Africa where *P. falciparum* is sensitive to both antimalarial medicines. The Uganda National Malaria Reduction Strategic Plan 2021-2025 recommends the implementation of SMC in areas with highly seasonal malaria like Karamoja region. The acceptability, feasibility and effectiveness/protective efficacy as well as implementation modalities of SMC in the Uganda context need to be studied, well understood and documented before SMC is scaled up and adopted as policy.

Therefore, Malaria Consortium in collaboration with the National Malaria Division in Uganda, has planned to implement an effectiveness-implementation hybrid type 1 project to evaluate the feasibility, acceptability and effectiveness of Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention in two districts in Karamoja, Uganda. This project will involve administration of five monthly cycles (May-September) of SMC to a target population of around 65,000 children under five over two years i.e. 2021 and 2022.

Job purpose

The purpose of the role is to lead the implementation of research activities on Malaria Consortium's SMC research project in Uganda. The Research Coordinator will provide technical assistance and coordinate research in the three project districts on behalf of Malaria Consortium, working closely with partners and conforming to Uganda's health standards and norms.

Scope of work

The Research Coordinator will be responsible for leading the technical components of the SMC project in terms of its technical design, implementation and giving technical input. The post holder will also be accountable for liaising with internal and external technical stakeholders and managing research uptake activities.

Key working relationships

The coordinator will have key working relationships with Senior Country Technical Coordinator, Country Director, Head of Monitoring, Evaluation and Surveillance, SMC Project Manager, Finance Officer and HR focal point. They will also interact with other Malaria Consortium staff working on

Malaria Consortium's global SMC programme, including the Head of Technical East & Southern Africa, Research Advisor and SMC Programme Director. Taking the lead on research, they will also engage with relevant external technical stakeholders.

Key accountabilities

1. Technical (40%)

- Provide technical input and day to day management on the programming, planning and implementation of all research projects as part of the MC SMC programme in Uganda
- Ensure quality and rigor in the collection, management and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data
- Support the development and implementation of all necessary training before any research implementation, including supporting other research and MC staff as required
- Proactively collaborate with wider Malaria Consortium's Technical team (CTC, M&E, Research Specialist, etc.), including participating in relevant community of practice (COP) meetings, capacity development activities and any other required activities
- Develop strong research concept notes as required, in collaboration with the Uganda and UK teams

2. Management (30%)

- Contribute to the management of all research-related project resources (HR, Logistic, Finance)
- Manage the implementation the SMC research projects at field level
- Participate in the process of procuring required resources for SMC research projects, including hiring research assistants, supplies and all other requirements of these projects
- Understand and participate in relevant national research programmes and working groups as agreed with MC country team and feedback regularly to the MC Uganda technical group on relevant research updates and developments at a national level

3. Reporting (30%)

- Compile, review and prepare relevant research activity reports and ensure that they are technically appropriate, accurate and in line with programme objectives and targets
- Document best practices and success stories for programme learning and improved programme performance
- Work closely with the finance team to ensure timely financial reporting and assistance for audits

Person specification

Qualifications and experience:

Essential

- MSc in Public Health, Global Health, Sociology, Anthropology, or a related social science discipline, or another post-graduate qualification with a substantial qualitative research component
- Substantial experience in social science research design, management and implementation
- Demonstrable experience designing topic guides and carrying out qualitative interviews and/or focus group discussions
- Demonstrable experience in transcribing and analysing qualitative data
- Experience of building positive working relationships between NGOs and MoH
- Experience working in public health in developing countries within government, an international organisation or research institution

- Proficient in the development of data entry programmes and in using statistical analysis software (EpiInfo, EpiData, Excel, Access, Stata)
- Experienced in applying qualitative methods of data collection and analysis
- Familiar with Uganda’s routine HMIS

Desirable

- Experience in using quantitative and qualitative data analysis software (NVivo/MAXQDA)
- Experience of working with an INGO

Work-based skills and competencies:

Essential

- Strong leadership skills and a supportive attitude towards team members
- Excellent research technical skills (epidemiology, statistical analysis etc.)
- Excellent diplomacy and stakeholder liaison skills
- Excellent communication and presentation skills
- Good technical writing skills
- Experience in developing training materials, carrying out and supervising trainings
- Fluent in both written and spoken English
- Demonstrated ability to work both independently and as part of a team

Core competencies:
Delivering results
LEVEL C - Supports others to achieve results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Displays a positive and enthusiastic approach and is not deterred by setbacks, finding alternative ways to reach goals or targets ✓ Supports others to plan and deliver results ✓ Supports others to manage and cope with setbacks
Analysis and use of information
LEVEL C - Works confidently with complex data to support work
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Interprets complex written information ✓ Works confidently with data before making decisions, for example; interpreting trends, issues and risks ✓ Acquainted with the validity, relevance and limitations of different sources of evidence
Interpersonal and communications
LEVEL C - Communicates complex technical and/or sensitive/high risk information effectively
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Communicates complex operational, technical and strategic issues clearly and credibly with widely varied audiences ✓ Uses varied communication to promote dialogue and shared understanding and consensus across a variety of audiences ✓ Influences internal and external audiences on specific issues ✓ Scans the internal and external environment for key information and messages to support communications strategies
Collaboration and partnering
LEVEL C - Builds strong networks internally and participates actively in external networks and think tanks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Builds strong networks internally ✓ Participates actively in external networks and/or think tanks ✓ Engages with relevant experts to gather and evaluate evidence ✓ Shares and implements good practice with internal and external peers

Leading and motivating people

LEVEL C - Effectively leads and motivates others or direct reports.

- ✓ Gives regular, timely and appropriate feedback,
- ✓ Acknowledges good performance and deals with issues concerning poor performance
- ✓ Carries out staff assessment and development activities conscientiously and effectively
- ✓ Develops the skills and competences of others through the development and application of skills
- ✓ Coaches and supports team members when they have difficulties

Flexibility/ adaptability

LEVEL C - Supports others to cope with pressure

- ✓ Responds positively to change, embracing and using new practices or values to accomplish goals and solve problems and supports others to do the same
- ✓ Adapts team approach, goals, and methods to achieve solutions and results in dynamic situations
- ✓ Sets realistic deadlines and goals for self or team

Living the values

LEVEL C - Supports others to live Malaria Consortium's values

- ✓ Demonstrates personal integrity by using role position responsibly and fairly
- ✓ Cultivates an open culture within the wider team, promoting accountability, responsibility and respect for individual differences

Strategic planning and thinking and sector awareness

LEVEL B - Keeps up to date with the internal and external environment

- ✓ Takes into account economic, political and other business factors when drawing up medium and long-term plans, covering both public and private sectors
- ✓ Looks beyond the immediate operations to prospects for new business
- ✓ Engages with appropriate internal and external sources to establish major influences on future plans