List of malaria Operational Research and Program Evaluation topics identified through the PMI Insights prioritization process

Prevention topic 1: Given the challenges with ITN durability, test and evaluate the effectiveness of different approaches to improve routine/continuous distribution channels for ITNs to sustain coverage between mass campaigns

Prevention topic 2: Compare or evaluate different strategies/packages of interventions to prevent the resurgence of malaria cases following the withdrawal of IRS

Prevention topic 3: Assess the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of innovative approaches to reduce the cost and/or improve the efficiency of IRS implementation (e.g., partial spraying of structures, use of a decentralized approach, targeted spraying

Prevention topic 4: Assess barriers and facilitators to ITN use in different settings where access to ITNs is high and evaluate the effectiveness of different social and behavior change (SBC) approaches/interventions to improve ITN use within different settings/contexts based on the identified barriers (e.g., community level strategies, provider/patient communication/SBC approaches, SBC approaches for low transmission settings)

Prevention topic 5: Test and evaluate different delivery mechanisms to reach and sustain high coverage of ITNs among hard-to-reach and highest risk populations.

Prevention topic 6: Test and evaluate the effectiveness of different deployment and targeting approaches for IRS to maximize impact (e.g., testing different insecticides, duration and frequency of spraying, geographic/structural targeting strategies).

Prevention topic 7: Evaluate and compare different insecticide management and/or rotation strategies on insecticide resistance prevalence and intensity (cross-cuts use of ITNs and IRS).

Prevention topic 8: Assess the impact of IRS and focal/reactive IRS on malaria burden, transmission, and insecticide resistance.

Prevention topic 9: Evaluate the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of different strategies for deploying the RTS, S AS01 malaria vaccine with chemoprevention (e.g., campaign vs. EPI-linked vs combination campaign/EPI strategies).

Prevention topic 10: Assess the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of larval source management on epidemiological and entomological outcomes in different transmission contexts and the duration of impact.

Chemoprevention topic 1: Test approaches or strategies to improve cost and resource efficiency (e.g., integration of seasonal malaria chemoprevention with other delivery platforms) and to maintain effectiveness in the delivery of seasonal malaria chemoprevention when scaling up the intervention.

Chemoprevention topic 2: Test and evaluate strategies to improve the efficiency of the delivery of IPTp (e.g., community-based delivery through community health workers).

Chemoprevention topic 3: Assess the impact and cost-effectiveness of expanding the age range, geographical coverage, and rounds of treatment of seasonal malaria chemoprevention.

Chemoprevention topic 4: Evaluate different strategies for achieving high mass drug administration coverage and adherence in different transmission contexts.

Chemoprevention topic 5: Assess the operational feasibility and most effective delivery platform for PMC administration (e.g., EPI, mass campaign, community health workers)

Chemoprevention topic 6: Assess predictors of adherence to and determinants of uptake of SMC and evaluate different strategies to achieving high SMC coverage and adherence

Chemoprevention topic 7: Test the effectiveness of different strategies to improve IPTp coverage.

Case Management topic 1: Evaluate different strategies to improve health care worker adherence to integrated management of childhood illness guidelines.

Case Management topic 2: Test different approaches for working with/incentivizing participation and collaboration of the private sector in the referral, diagnosis, treatment, and reporting of malaria cases.

Case Management topic 3: Test and evaluate interventions to improve adherence to malaria treatment guidelines and reporting in the private sector

Case Management topic 4: Test and evaluate approaches or interventions to reduce the frequency of stockouts of key commodities for malaria case management, especially at community level (specifically addressing challenges related to commodity quantification, stock management capacity, reporting and use of stock data).

Case Management topic 5: Assess factors associated with community health worker (CHW) motivation and retention and evaluate different approaches or interventions to improve CHW motivation and retention.

Case Management topic 6: Assess structural and behavioral factors associated with delayed care-seeking across different population groups (e.g., age, gender, hard-to-reach/vulnerable populations) and compare different strategies to decrease delays in care-seeking.

Case Management topic 7: Assess predictors of adherence and non-adherence to case management treatment guidelines among health care providers and test/evaluate different strategies to improve adherence to guidelines.

SME topic 1: Assess the feasibility and benefit of different digital tools/systems for use at the community level for data capture, reporting, and transmission to HMIS/DHIS2.

SME topic 2: Assess different approaches or interventions to improve the analytic and data use capacity, and data use culture at different levels of the health system.

SME topic 3: Test and evaluate different approaches or interventions for improving HMIS data quality (e.g., assess minimum periodicity of supervision, strategies for easing reporting burden on staff/simplification of reporting system, strategies to incentivize reporting accuracy)

SME topic 4: Evaluate how current surveillance systems are functioning, and whether they are producing reliable and accurate information to guide countries toward elimination.

SME topic 5: Compare different strategies for surveillance and response in elimination settings, assessing completeness, timeliness, delivery of response, and cost-effectiveness

Cross Cutting topic 1: Assess the long-term effectiveness and sustainability of different social and behavior change approaches on key malaria treatment and prevention behaviors and the duration of their impact on intervention uptake.

Cross Cutting topic 2: Compare different social and behavior change/community engagement strategies in terms of effectiveness and cost-effectiveness on healthcare seeking, adherence to treatment, and uptake of key prevention interventions.

Cross Cutting topic 3: Assess impact of cross border movement of people on malaria incidence/prevalence & evaluate the effectiveness of different strategies to reduce malaria transmission across international borders.

Cross Cutting topic 4: Assess the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of different intervention combinations (e.g., ITNs + IRS, ITNs or IRS + LSM, vector control + chemoprevention) to better understand how interventions should be combined to maximize impact.