



**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A LOCAL CONSULTANT FOR THE MID-TERM REVIEW
(MTR) OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN**

Job Title	:	Local Consultant - MTR Review for SP
Reports To	:	TBD
Location	:	Monrovia
Period of Consultancy	:	September 2018 – January 2019
Posted	:	20 August 2018

1. **Background**

Epidemiological Profile

The entire population of Liberia is at risk of malaria, though recent studies show a decline in malaria prevalence. According to results from the 2011 MIS, the prevalence of malaria parasitemia in children under five years of age by RDT was 66% in 2005, 37% in 2009 and 45% in 2011 and 2016. The prevalence rate as measured by microscopy was 32% in 2009 and 28% in 2011. According to reports received by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2010 from the National Malaria Control Program (NMCP), approximately 40% of consultations in outpatient departments in all age groups in public health facilities were due to malaria, which increased to 42% in 2013. According to the health facility survey malaria mortality increased to 39% in 2013 compared to the estimated 33% of in-patient deaths in 2009. According to the 2016 LMIS, the percentage of households with at least one insecticide treated net (ITN) for every two persons who stayed in the household the last night increased from 16.9% to 25.2%. Similarly, the percentage of under 5s who slept under an ITN overnight has increased from 37.1 % to 43.7% while pregnant women who slept under ITN had not shown improvement over the years. While there has been an improvement in the provision of ACT based therapy from 70% to 81.1% for under 5 children from 2011 to 2016, the proportion of under 5 children with fever tested for malaria is 50%.

Overview NMP strategic Plan priorities

The National Malaria Strategic plan outlines the below listed as key priority action areas : Training in Malaria Case Management & Management of Malaria in Pregnancy, Integrated Vector Management (IVM), Research, Surveillance, Monitoring and Evaluation, Data Management, Supply Chain Management, IEC/BCC /Advocacy and Program Management and Planning (NSP 2016-2020).

2. **Goal of the MTR**

The aim of the MTR is to improve operational performance and the delivery of malaria interventions aim at achieving the goal of morbidity and mortality reduction by half by 2020 and to set the pace for the new strategy Plan 2020-2025.

3. **Specific Objectives of the MTR:**

- Review the current epidemiology of malaria in the country;
- Review the structure, organization, and management framework for the policy and program development within the health system and the national development agenda;
- Assess progress towards achievement of national, regional and global targets;
- Review current program performance by strategies and intervention areas of the NMCP; and,
- Define the next steps for improving program performance or

- Update the current National Strategic Plan through redefining its strategic direction and focus.

4. **Purpose of the MTR**

The purpose of the MTR is to identify achievements in outputs, outcomes and impacts, best practices, lessons learned and critical issues and then make recommendations in the updated strategic plan for more effective delivery. The assessment may result in redefining strategic direction and focus of the program and strengthening of structures, systems and capacities to achieve greater equity, coverage, quality and more effective delivery of the interventions.

Scope of the MTR:

The MTR will cover all of programmatic components currently covered by the NSP, this includes different strategies selected as priority high impact interventions to address epidemiological challenges in the country. These will include as relevant health system components and program management functions. The MTR should however focus on few intervention areas for more in-depth thematic review. Among these thematic reviews of particular is assessment of the whole continuum of services related to malaria case management at public, private and community sectors. The final scope of MTR should be defined by NMCP in consultation with key partners, including other in-depth thematic reviews.

5. **Methodology of the MTR**

The review process will take place in 4 essential phases. For each phase, the working method will include:

- technical guidance related to the concerned phase;
- Working group sessions on specific themes related to the National Strategic Plan's objectives and strategies
- Plenary presentations of the results of the working group sessions
- Field visits to: i) conduct interviews with stakeholders including development partners; ii) visit health facilities and communities to assess factors affecting the availability, access and utilization of quality malaria prevention, diagnosis, treatment services; iii) and verify the accuracy of data available at the operational level.

6. **Roles and responsibilities**

Phase I: Preparation and Planning of the MTR (1 month)

Work with the external TA and the relevant NMCP staff to:

- Organize a stakeholder meeting to reach consensus on the MTR exercise
- Set up a technical coordination group for the MTR with well-defined TORs
- Identify and collect all key documents and literatures to be reviewed
- compile a library of documents for reference
- Make status presentations for the MTR steering committee on phase one achievement
- Compile and submit phase 1 report

Phase II: Desk review of all key malaria documents and literatures (1 month)

Work with the external TA and the relevant NMCP staff:

- Develop a template to extract document and literatures
- Review all the documents and extract relevant information for synthesis
- Develop data collection tool for field visit and criteria for recruiter data collectors
- Form part of recruitment process of data collectors

- Make status presentations to the MTR steering committee on achievement
- Compile and submit phase 2 report

Phase III: External Validation including Field Visit (1 month)

- Train data collectors on data collection tool and processes
- Monitor and supervise data collection processes
- Develop a combine report of the data collection and desk review and do a presentation
- Organize a validation of the combined report
- Compile and submit a status update for the phase

Phase IV: Finalization and Submission of Final MTR report (1 month)

- In cooperate comment from the validation with malaria stakeholders
- List appropriate recommendations for update to the NSP
- Compile and submit report with

Total duration of the consultancy: **Four Months**

Required Qualifications, Experience and Competencies

- Degree in public health, epidemiology, health informatics, statistics, or related social science required
- At least 5 years of applied skills in conducting consultancy and evaluation activities in public health or similar programs, including with international donors such as USAID
- **Three years** of work experience that required a high level of self-management with minimum supervision and included a variety of assignments, experience supervising other staff preferred;
- Strong technical skills, including proficiency in conducting program monitoring and assessments, and analyzing data;
- Experience managing M&E systems including collecting, entering, cleaning, and validating data, and training data collectors and collecting and reviewing submitted data;
- Knowledge and experience in report writing including preparation of quantitative results and writing narrative on project performance.
- Demonstrated in-depth understanding of Liberia healthcare system, particularly the public health system, experience working with NMCP is preferred
- Strong computer skills in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint
- Strong oral and written communication skills in English
- Great reporting writing and presentations skills
- Team player: Good understanding of cost effectiveness analysis, comfortable being a mentor of others and comfortable participating in advocacy activities.

Interested applicants should send their electronic CVs and covered letter of application to: liberiahumanresources@gmail.com including email addresses and telephone numbers. List three professional referees, one of whom MUST be a current or last employer. Ensure to include in the subject line of your application MTR Consultancy. **Deadline is 12 midnight local time, Monday, August 20, 2018. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Jhpiego is an equal opportunity/Affirmative Action employer and does not discriminate in its selection and employment practices. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, disability, protected veteran status, genetic information, age, or other legally protected characteristics. Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply. Failure to follow the instructions of applying, your application would be denied. For further information about Jhpiego, visit our website at www.jhpiego.org.**