

Chemoprevention Options in Advanced Control and Elimination of Malaria (CHOICE) Framework

Key messages

- Chemoprevention strategies have been shown to be effective in reducing the burden of malaria, and are frequently deployed in both control and elimination settings.
- There are numerous chemoprevention strategies available for national malaria programs to choose from, depending on programmatic objectives, specific transmission dynamics, local contexts, and resources available.
- National program managers need more guidance on which chemoprevention strategies to use across different transmission settings, as well as when to shift strategies as transmission dynamics change.
- The CHOICE framework provides decision-making guidance to support national malaria programs in the selection, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and iterative adaptation of chemoprevention strategies in consideration of local transmission dynamics, programmatic objectives, and resource constraints.
- The CHOICE framework supports decision making specifically around the use of Mass Drug Administration, and screen and treat strategies for which policy level guidance is not available. Information supporting the implementation, planning and measurement of Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention (SMC), Intermittent Preventive Therapy of malaria in pregnancy (IPTp) and in infants (IPTi) can be found in WHO guidance documents.



About the Toolkit

The MEI Malaria Elimination Toolkit is a set of proven tools and approaches to help malaria endemic countries accelerate progress toward malaria elimination. Developed by the Malaria Elimination Initiative (MEI) at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), the toolkit addresses the unique challenges faced by national malaria programs in heterogeneous transmission settings. These tools have been used successfully at the national and/or subnational levels, leading to important changes in malaria policy and practice.

The MEI recognizes that implementing any new tool or approach can be challenging. Technical assistance is available to support the tailoring and implementation of all MEI tools. Please visit our website shrinkingthemalariamap.org or contact us for more information at mei@ucsf.edu.

What is chemoprevention?

As malaria can be prevented and treated using medicines, anti-malarial drugs are a powerful asset for malaria control and elimination programs. All countries with endemic malaria use drugs for clinical case management, where antimalarial medicines are used to treat confirmed clinical cases of malaria. Beyond clinical case management, drugs can be used to prevent and treat malaria among specific at-risk populations. We refer to these uses as chemoprevention strategies, which can be used to:

1. Reduce malaria transmission
2. Reduce malaria morbidity
3. Improve surveillance
4. Respond to emergencies including malaria outbreaks or situations where the health system is strained (e.g., during an Ebola outbreak).

When implementing a chemoprevention strategy, there are numerous options to choose from, depending on programmatic objectives, local contexts, resources available, and specific transmission dynamics. Many options do not yet have official policy-level guidance in place; this framework guides decision-making on the use of Mass Drug Administration and screen and treat strategies that do not have guidance in place, suggesting how they be introduced in regions with optimized case management, vector control, and surveillance systems.

What is the CHOICE Framework and why is it useful?

The CHOICE framework offers practical decision support to national malaria programs and sub-national staff to guide the selection, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and iterative adaptation of malaria chemoprevention strategies in settings with *P. falciparum* malaria. This framework is structured to provide a step-by-step approach to characterize transmission settings, select a strategy to implement, tailor its implementation to the local context, assess financial resources required for the intervention, monitor and evaluate progress, and establish when and how to change strategies in response to shifting transmission dynamics.

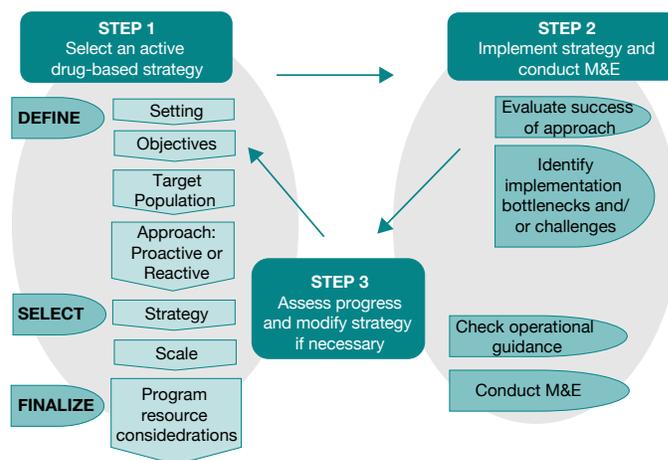
Who should use this tool and how?

The CHOICE framework is intended for use by national malaria program managers and sub-national health officers, as well as any partners or research institutions involved in the design, implementation, and/or monitoring and evaluation of chemoprevention strategies for malaria control and elimination. The framework is organized into three steps to help guide the decision-making process (Figure 1):

- Step 1 uses six decision points to guide the selection of a chemoprevention strategy that is suitable to local settings, contexts, and human and financial resources available.
- Step 2 supports the development of a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) process.
- Step 3 provides practical guidance on when to shift strategies.

This framework can be used during national and sub-national malaria planning meetings, reviews and evaluations, and when developing operational research plans. If you are interested in using this framework, or have any questions, comments, or feedback please visit our website for more information: <http://www.shrinkingthemalariamap.org/contactus>.

Figure 1. The CHOICE framework process



In response to national malaria program demand, the MEI, Alyssa Young and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine developed the Chemoprevention Options In Advanced Control and Elimination of Malaria (CHOICE) framework with the Anti-Parasite Roll Out Group, a time-bound collaboration of national malaria programs, malaria research organizations, funders and global stakeholders to determine operational challenges to the implementation of MDA and screen and treat strategies.

The Malaria Elimination Initiative (MEI) at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) believes a malaria-free world is possible within a generation. As a forward-thinking partner to malaria eliminating countries and regions, the MEI generates evidence, develops new tools and approaches, disseminates experiences, and builds consensus to shrink the malaria map. With support from the MEI's highly skilled team, countries around the world are actively working to eliminate malaria.

shrinkingthemalariamap.org