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MALARIA

*Leveraging **E**vidence and **A**dvocacy to **R**educe the burden of malaria in school-age children for better evidence, broader coverage, and brighter futures.*

OVERVIEW

LEARN Malaria is a multi-sectoral network uniting researchers, program managers, educators, implementing partners, policymakers, and funders committed to reducing the burden of malaria among school-aged children (SAC) across Africa.

LEARN Malaria builds on the momentum from the 2024 stakeholder meeting in Kigali and subsequent consultations supported by Open Philanthropy.

WHY FOCUS ON SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN?

- **Hidden Burden:** Malaria remains the leading cause of death among 5- to 14-year-olds in sub-Saharan Africa. In Sierra Leone, 40% of deaths in this age group are due to malaria.
- **Educational & Economic Impact:** Acute uncomplicated clinical malaria and chronic infections cause anemia, school absenteeism, and impact cognitive function—limiting learning potential and human capital development.
- **Transmission Reservoir:** In high-burden countries like Malawi, Uganda, and DRC, over 50% of well-appearing school-aged children are infected and serve as the main source of community transmission.
- **Policy Gap:** School-age children are least likely to use bed nets or receive treatment for malaria. While chemoprevention is recommended (WHO, 2022), guidance on its design, delivery, and evaluation remains limited. LEARN Malaria tackles these gaps through evidence, coordination, and advocacy.

OUR OBJECTIVES

QUANTIFY the health, education, and economic burden of malaria in this age group.

BUILD evidence on the benefits of malaria reduction for individuals, communities, and development.

ADVOCATE for policies that integrate school-age malaria interventions into national systems.

ENABLE action through peer learning, technical exchange, and collaboration across health and education sectors.





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OUR WORKSTREAMS



Coordinate & Collaborate

Maintain an online platform consolidating studies, data, and tools.

Host webinars and in-person convenings alongside major global meetings.

Strengthen South-South collaboration and alignment with related networks.



Knowledge & Data

Harmonize study designs and metrics for malaria, education, and economic outcomes.

Develop guidance and policy profiles for interventions targeting school-aged children and integrated school-health approaches.

Commission syntheses on priority topics identified by the network.



Advocacy & Communication

Engage key stakeholders: NMCPs, WHO GMP/AFRO, PMI, Global Fund, GAVI, UNESCO, UNICEF, and Global Partnership for Education.

Produce policy briefs, commentaries, and media content to elevate school-age children malaria on the global agenda.

Map and build bridges between health and education actors for joint advocacy.

Join LEARN Malaria



Membership is open to all researchers, implementers, and policymakers committed to tackling malaria in school-aged children.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO JOIN OUR MAILING LIST & GET FUTURE UPDATES.

LEARN Malaria Secretariat

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