

**LMG/National Malaria Control Program Capacity Building  
Project: Program Year 1, Quarter 1 Progress Report  
October-December, 2013**

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August 13, 2014

This report was made possible through support provided by the US Agency for International Development, under the terms of AID-OAA-A-11-00015. The opinions expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the US Agency for International Development.

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**Leadership, Management and Governance National Malaria  
Control Program Capacity Building Project  
(LMG/NMCP)**

Program Year I, Quarter I Progress Report  
October I – December 31, 2013

**Submitted to U.S. Government President's Malaria Initiative  
on January 15, 2014**

This publication was produced by Management Sciences for Health for review by the U.S. Government President's Malaria Initiative (PMI).

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## PROJECT ACTIVITY SUMMARY FORM

<b>Project Name:</b> Leadership, Management and Governance National Malaria Control Program Capacity Building Project
<b>Project Objectives:</b> The two-year goal of Leadership, Management and Governance National Malaria Control Program Capacity Building Project (LMG/NMCP) is to strengthen the National Malaria Control Programs' capacity as leaders to improve the coordination of national efforts in the fight against malaria. LMG/NMCP will achieve this goal through providing directed technical assistance to the National Malaria Control Programs in the following six countries identified by the U.S. Government President's Malaria Initiative (PMI): Burundi, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.
<b>Implementing Partner(s):</b> Management Sciences for Health
<b>Agreement/Contract No:</b> AID-OAA-A-11-00015
<b>Life of Project (start and end dates):</b> October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2015
<b>Reporting Period (start and end dates):</b> October 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013
<b>Total Estimated Contract/Agreement Amount:</b> US\$5,246,331
<b>Obligations to Date:</b> US\$2,794,000
<b>Project Expenditures through September 2013:</b> US\$0
<b>Expenditures during Reporting Period:</b> US\$89,183
<b>Accrued Expenditures for the Reporting Period:</b> US\$6,000
<b>Total Expenditures for Reporting Period:</b> US\$95,183
<b>Total Project Expenditures to Date (as of Dec. 31, 2013):</b> US\$95,183
<b>Current pipeline (as of Dec. 31, 2013):</b> \$US2,698,817
<b>Estimated Expenditures for Next Reporting Period:</b> US\$375,000
<b>Report Submitted by:</b> Kristin Cooney, Country Portfolio Director
<b>Report Submission Date:</b> January 15, 2014

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Leadership, Management and Governance Project (LMG) is a global five-year Cooperative Agreement awarded by USAID/Washington, designed to strengthen and expand the people-centered capacity building strategy pioneered under the previous Leadership, Management and Sustainability Program. The LMG Project's objective is to support health systems strengthening by addressing the gap in leadership, management and governance capacity of policy makers, health care providers and program managers to implement quality health services at all levels of the health system.

Under the global LMG Project, the U.S. Government President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) has provided funding for a multi-country activity to support National Malaria Control Programs (NMCPs). Through the Leadership, Management and Governance National Malaria Control Program Capacity Building Project (LMG/NMCP), PMI will provide direct technical assistance to the NMCPs to reinforce leadership, management and governance capacities to improve the coordinated national efforts in the fight against malaria.

The following is a summary of the activities carried out October 1 through December 31, 2013. During this reporting period, the LMG/NMCP team focused on strategic planning, design, and start-up activities to ensure the smooth and successful implementation of these activities throughout the targeted countries.

### **I. PROJECT PERFORMANCE**

The LMG/NMCP team is currently drafting an overview program description for all six PMI target countries to be submitted to the PMI team in Washington. Under LMG/NMCP activities, a Senior Technical Advisor will be recruited for each of the project countries to provide tailored technical assistance to the local National Malaria Control Program. Once recruited, the Senior Technical Advisors will conduct situational analyses within the NMCP to identify priority technical assistance areas and define country-specific project activities and objectives.

During this reporting period, the LMG/NMCP team finalized recruitment for Guinea, Liberia, and Côte d'Ivoire and is working to complete the recruitment for the remaining three positions in Burundi, Cameroon, and Sierra Leone. Updates by country are provided below.

#### **Guinea:**

The LMG/NMCP team finalized the recruitment of Dr. Youssoufa Lo in September 2013, and he joined the home office staff in Cambridge for orientations September 30 – October 11, 2013, prior to traveling to post October 21, 2013. Upon his arrival in Conakry, Dr. Lo began working closely with the NMCP and USAID mission teams to identify immediate priorities for support and develop a situational analysis for long-term strategic planning. Throughout the reporting period, the LMG/NMCP team collaborated closely with USAID/Guinea. The project established monthly meetings with USAID to discuss project activities and will be submitting weekly project updates in the next quarter.

**Situational analysis:** The LMG/NMCP team conducted a baseline situational analysis of the NMCP during the period October 30 through November 30, 2013. The objective of this evaluation was to collect data on the internal and external operations of the NMCP to assess key strengths, weaknesses and gaps in the areas of: work environment, structural and organizational structure, program management, planning and coordination, and functioning of the Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism. To collect data, LMG/NMCP staff conducted interviews with NMCP leadership and unit staff members as well as partners in the national malaria control efforts (Catholic Relief Services, Stop Palu, and the Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism).

The LMG/NMCP assessment report, including recommendations, is under discussion with the NMCP and other implementing partners for validation. Following the situational analysis, the project team proposed four overarching objectives:

- **Objective 1:** Improved leadership and management practices within the NMCP
- **Objective 2:** Strengthened systems and policies to promote governance
- **Objective 3:** Strengthened NMCP organizational capacity for human resources management
- **Objective 4:** Improved coordination with stakeholders and external partners in the fight against malaria in Guinea to ensure the harmonization of activities and objectives in line with national strategies

LMG/NMCP staff are collaborating with partners during these assessment validation discussions to identify specific project activities; a full workplan and budget package will be submitted to PMI for approval in the next reporting period.

**Coordination with Catholic Relief Services:** Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is currently the Principal Recipient for the Round 10 Global Fund malaria grant which has been consolidated with the second phase of the Round 6 grant previously under NMCP management. While CRS is the Principal Recipient for the consolidated Global Fund grant, close collaboration with the NMCP as a national stakeholder is necessary for the success of the Global Fund grants within the national strategy. In order to reinforce the collaboration between the CRS and NMCP teams and ensure that priority NMCP actions necessary for the success of the Global Fund grant implementation, the LMG/NMCP project organized and facilitated three coordination meetings with the teams. The LMG/NMCP team worked closely with the NMCP to finalize and validate training manuals and a tool for CRS use in November 2013, and is continuing support in the implementation of training throughout the country for health service providers and community-level actors in the health system.

**Global Fund concept note development:** LMG/NMCP staff supported the Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism to hold a first presentation on the New Funding Model of the Global Fund on December 2, 2013. Following this overview session for the

CCM General Assembly, the project facilitated additional meetings at the NMCP to prepare for the concept note development process. During these planning sessions, the NMCP established a technical group to oversee the concept note development. The technical group, with support from LMG/NMCP, developed an action plan for concept note development and submitted a technical assistance request to the French 5% Initiative on December 24, 2013.

**Liberia:**

The LMG/NMCP team finalized the recruitment of Kwabena Larbi for the Senior Technical Advisor position in Liberia during this reporting period, and he will begin work with the project on January 15, 2014. Prior to his start date, Mr. Larbi traveled to the MSH home office as a consultant for orientation sessions with support staff and knowledge exchange with expatriate staff supporting LMG activities in Haiti, West Africa, and Benin.

**Côte d'Ivoire:**

The LMG/NMCP team finalized the recruitment of Pépin Miyigbena for the Senior Technical Advisor position in Côte d'Ivoire during this reporting period, and he will begin work with the project on January 15, 2014. LMG has already established local operations in Côte d'Ivoire and is recruiting a full support team for other LMG activities in the country who will provide management and administrative support for the LMG/NMCP activities as well.

**Burundi, Cameroon and Sierra Leone:**

Recruitment for the Burundi and Cameroon Senior Technical Advisors is ongoing with interviews ending in mid-January 2014. LMG/NMCP staff will share shortlisted candidates with the respective missions for final interviews and feedback.

PMI informed the LMG/NMCP team on January 7, 2014, that Sierra Leone will be added to this set of activities as a sixth support country. LMG/NMCP staff are working to launch the hiring process in January to complete all remaining recruitments in the next quarter.

## II. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

**Table 1: Management priorities addressed during this reporting period**

Management priorities	Status	Comments
Recruitment of local staff	In progress	Recruitment finalized for the Senior Technical Advisor positions in Guinea, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire.  Recruitments are ongoing for Burundi, Cameroon, and Sierra Leone and will be completed in the next quarter.
Conduct local situational assessments	In progress	Situational assessment for Guinea completed and under discussion with local stakeholders for validation.

**Table 2: Management priorities for next reporting period**

Management priorities for next reporting period	Resources Needed (financial, human, supplies)	Comments
Finalize and submit the overall LMG/NMCP program description document	Staff time	
Finalize country workplans and budget packages for submission to PMI and USAID Missions in the six countries	Staff time	LMG/NMCP staff will develop country workplan and budget packages once local staff are recruited and complete an initial assessment in coordination with the NMCP and local partners in-country.
Complete the recruitment of remaining Senior Technical Advisor positions	Staff time	Burundi, Cameroon, and Sierra Leone recruitments ongoing.
Finalize Memoranda of Understanding with NMCPs	Staff time	LMG/NMCP will develop and put in place MOUs with each NMCP.
Complete all required reports, including the Quarterly Accruals Report and Quarterly Report	Staff time	This is an ongoing requirement.

### III. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity implementation is pending situational analysis completion and workplan development. LMG/NMCP will implement project activities in alignment with country-specific workplan packages developed during the next quarter in collaboration with local stakeholders. The LMG/NMCP team will continue to conduct situational assessments locally once project staff are deployed and develop detailed workplans based on the gaps identified in these evaluations.

With the addition of Sierra Leone to the project's scope in early January, the LMG/NMCP team is currently in discussion with the project's PMI contact for regional cross-cutting activities beyond the six target countries. Regional activities will include participation in Roll Back Malaria Global Fund New Funding Model trainings, capacity building, and knowledge exchange among LMG/NMCP advisors, and the implementation of a Leadership Development Program, with other relevant activities to be identified. The project will submit proposed activities to PMI in the next reporting period and will coordinate with the PMI team for the Roll Back Malaria trainings in April.

### IV. QUARTERLY TRAVEL PLAN

Traveler	Itinerary	Dates	Purpose
Kwabena Larbi	Accra – Monrovia	o/a January 15, 2014	Travel to post to begin role as Senior Technical Advisor in Liberia
Pépin Miyigbena	Cotonou - Abidjan	o/a January 15, 2014	Travel to post to begin role as Senior Technical Advisor in Côte d'Ivoire
TBD Senior Technical Advisor	TBD - Bujumbura	TBD February 2014	Travel to post to begin role as Senior Technical Advisor in Burundi
TBD Senior Technical Advisor	TBD – Yaoundé	TBD February 2014	Travel to post to begin role as Senior Technical Advisor in Cameroon
TBD Senior Technical Advisor	TBD - Freetown	TBD February 2014	Travel to post to begin role as Senior Technical Advisor in Sierra Leone
TBD Senior Technical Advisors	TBD – Dakar – TBD	o/a April 7-11, 2014 April 2014	Travel for selected LMG/NMCP Senior Technical Advisors to attend the Francophone New Funding Model training in Dakar organized by Roll Back Malaria

TBD Senior Technical Advisors	TBD – Harare – TBD	o/a April 14 – 18, 2014	Travel for selected LMG/NMCP Senior Technical Advisors to attend the Anglophone New Funding Model training in Harare organized by Roll Back Malaria
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