**ADVERT FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF FELLOWS ON THE “MIND THE GAP” PROJECT FOR STRENGTHENING VECTOR SURVEILLANCE IN NIGERIA**

The Mind The Gap (MTG) fellowship program/grant is a joint program by the Nigerian Institute of Medical Research, National Malaria Elimination Program and the University of California San Franscisco. This research grant is sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. It aims to enhance individual capacity in entomological surveillance, focusing on early career entomologists, particularly females, within National Malaria or State Programs (NMPs) / Public Health Research Institutes (PHRIs) in Nigeria. Fellows will be supported to complete their PhD or MSc degree in medical entomology/ public health at an accredited university within their country of residence by addressing priority program questions for the National Malaria Elimination Program (NMEP) as guided by NIMR. Through this program, fellows will be assisted with developing, implementing, analyzing, and disseminating results from their surveillance projects, contributing to both individual capacity development and NMEPs’ malaria prevention efforts. Fellows will also focus on their professional development by designing and implementing their own professional development plan with the support of NIMR, their university, and NMEP. This program is designed to run from December 2024 to Apr 2028. The fellowship positions are for two individuals (a male and female). Fellows are expected to possess a Master’s degree in either Biological Sciences, Zoology or Public Health or its equivalent. Experience with the National or State Programs will be an advantage.

1. **MTG Fellowship Program selection criteria**

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| Required criteria – Academic and professional |
| * Relevant educational background: candidates should have a degree in entomology, public health, or a related field, with a demonstrated focus on vector-borne diseases.
* Candidates should have professional experience in programmatic entomological surveillance and control activities, especially within the context of national malaria elimination programs (NMEPs) or Nigerian Institute of Medical Research (NIMR).
* Candidates should demonstrate alignment with the NMEP/ NIMR objectives, particularly in terms of contributing to fit-for-purpose vector surveillance systems and generating evidence to inform NMEP decision-making in malaria prevention efforts.
* Applicants should have a strong interest and commitment to advancing vector surveillance and control efforts in their country.
* Applicants should have demonstrated commitment to pursuing career growth within the country NMEP/NIMR.
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| Required criteria - Other |
| * Applicants must be committed to ongoing learning and collaboration.
* Applicants should be fluent (written, spoken) in any one of their country’s official languages.
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| Desirable criteria |
| * Candidates are currently employed by the NMEP.
* Demonstrate leadership potential and the ability to drive change within their respective organizations or communities.
* Prior experience in conducting high-quality research in entomology, vector biology, or related fields.
* Proficiency in relevant laboratory techniques, data analysis methods, and statistical software.
* Candidates with any of the following:
	+ Experience in project management, including planning, implementation, and evaluation of entomological surveillance and vector control programs
	+ Experience in community engagement, participatory research methods, or working with local communities to address vector-borne disease issues
	+ Experience or interest in interdisciplinary collaboration, such as working across fields like entomology, epidemiology, ecology, or public health, may bring valuable perspectives to the program
* Working knowledge in the English language
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**Gender Diversity and Inclusion Commitment**: This program aims to advance female entomologists, so applicants who identify as women may be given special consideration.

**Submission package:**

Please submit the following two documents as email attachments to the recruitment panel at info@nimr.gov.ng and copy **Dr. Adeogun Adedapo** (dapoadeogun@hotmail.com) by latest November 31st 2024.

**Curriculum Vitae (CV)**

* Please include your most updated CV, and ensure that it includes all the elements provided in the template provided (see **Annex I**). You are not obligated to use this exact template, as long as your current CV document provides the elements required in Annex I.
* You are also welcome to use this template exactly as it is to write up your CV.
1. **Motivation letter**
* Provide a brief motivation letter (1 to 2 pages). Refer to the prompt stated in **Annex II** to help ensure you address all relevant aspects to this fellowship program.
* You are welcome to include additional elements you think are important to highlight here.

**Annex I. Curriculum Vitae template**

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| **Background** |
| First Name(s), Family Name(s) |  |
| Country of residence |  |
| Email address |  |
|  |  |
| Nationality(ies) |  |
| Language(s) spoken  |  |
| Language(s) written |  |
| **Education** |
| **Start date – Completion date** | **Degree (subject), University, Country** |
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| **Work Experience** *Select your most relevant and current work experience. You may add additional entries to the 4 entries provided.* |
| Job title, Organization (Start date – End date):*Provide a brief description of key responsibilities* |
| Job title, Organization (Start date – End date):*Provide a brief description of key responsibilities* |
| Job title, Organization (Start date – End date):*Provide a brief description of key responsibilities* |
| Job title, Organization (Start date – End date):*Provide a brief description of key responsibilities* |
| **Certifications & Trainings***Select the most relevant (including the most recent) certifications and/or trainings you have received in the last 10 years. You may add additional entries to the 6 provided here.* |
| **Start date – Completion date** | **Certification and/or Training title (subject)****Provider of certification/training****Country of certification/training** |
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| **Awards***Indicate any professional and/or academic awards received throughout your career.* |
| **Date received** | **Award title, Awarder** |
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| **Memberships***Provide any relevant professional and/or academic memberships*  |
| **Date joined – Date left**  | **Organization, Country, Role** |
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| **Selected peer-reviewed publications (*optional*)***List the most relevant and most recent publications you have authored and/or co-authored.* *Ensure citation includes list of authors, date of publication, journal of publication, title.**Feel free to include additional entries to the 4 provided here.* |
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| **Selected non-peer-reviewed publications and reports (*optional*)***List the most relevant and most recent non-peer reviewed publications and reports you have contributed to as an author and/or reviewer for your country National Malaria Program or other relevant and related entity.* *Feel free to include additional entries to the 4 provided here.* |
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**Annex II. Motivation letter prompt**

Please introduce yourself, detailing your educational background and current role, and how they relate to entomological surveillance and control. Explain how the MTG fellowship program aligns with your professional development goals and supports the objectives of your country’s NIMR/ National Malaria Elimination Program (NMEP), particularly in enhancing vector surveillance systems and generating evidence for NMEP decision-making in malaria prevention. If applicable, indicate which degree (PhD or MSc) you wish to pursue under this program (note: pursuing a graduate degree is not a requirement to partake in this fellowship program). Highlight how this fellowship will advance your career, and include any relevant skills, research experience, leadership potential, and the potential impact on your country’s NMEP, if applicable.

**Application submission:**

All applications are to be submitted to the administrative unit of NIMR at info@nimr.gov.ng and copy Dr. Adeogun Adedapo at dapoadeogun@hotmail.com; maryesema@yahoo.com