

One year on: the world's first malaria vaccine pilot

With COVID-19 threatening progress achieved against malaria, the development of transformative tools to combat this disease have become increasingly vital to protect fragile healthcare systems and ensure hard-won gains are not lost.

This year marks the first anniversary of the rollout of the RTS,S malaria vaccine pilot programme – the first vaccine to provide partial protection from malaria in children, the group at highest risk of dying from malaria. **More than 350,000 children** have received their first dose of the RTS,S/AS01 vaccine across Ghana, Kenya and Malawi in selected areas of high malaria transmission.

The vaccine is complementary to other proven measures to fight malaria and, if recommended for wider use, has the potential to save tens of thousands of young lives in Africa.

The RBM Partnership and AMMREN will host a full briefing on learnings from the malaria vaccine pilot programme today (11 August) at 16:00 CEST*.

Speakers: Dr Mary Hamel, Lead for Malaria Vaccine Implementation Programme at the World Health Organization (WHO) and John Bawa, Africa Lead, Vaccine Implementation at PATH

Register for the session and submit your questions [here](#).

14:00 GMT | 16:00 CAT | 15:00 WAT

Supporting case study stories are also available on request from health professionals and mothers taking part in the pilot programme, including.

Augustine Tamia, mother-of-four, Ghana

“It is a big relief to me that Rejoice is well because I worry about my second-born Philip every day. I don't want the little one to be like him, and that is why I chose for Rejoice to have the malaria vaccine. **”**

Afia Naomi, mother-of-three, Ghana

“Robert has had no malaria so far. I am not getting as worried about him as I do about my other children. Malaria is like a bad spirit that visits our rooms every night while we sleep. **”**



Advancing the RTS,S vaccine programme in Ghana

- In Ghana, the RTS,S malaria vaccine programme has continued along with other childhood vaccinations amid the COVID-19 pandemic
- Immunization clinics are open and functioning, with social distancing in place, and parents are encouraged to bring their children for all recommended childhood vaccinations
- The Malaria Vaccine Implementation Programme is following guidance from WHO and national authorities to ensure that appropriate prevention measures are in place in clinics and hospitals, including the use of PPE to help protect frontline health workers and patients.



Co-managing COVID-19 and other diseases in Uganda

- Malaria Consortium, in partnership with Mastercard Foundation, is [developing the capacity of 33,000 frontline healthcare workers](#) across 40 districts in Uganda to identify and safely treat cases of COVID-19, while continuing to deliver integrated community case management (iCCM), a strategy to tackle malaria, pneumonia, diarrhoea and acute malnutrition.



State of malaria snapshot

- On 16 July, Malaria Consortium announced that the first treatment cycle of their [2020 SMC campaign](#) is underway, on course to reach **12 million** children in Burkina Faso, Chad and Nigeria
- On 16 July, the Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance and Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network [launched a technical dashboard](#) highlighting successful efforts and the progress made towards malaria elimination in Asia Pacific
- On 13 July, [The Lancet](#) published a new report that suggested deaths from HIV, tuberculosis and malaria could surge in poor and middle-income countries as already weak health systems grapple with severe disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic
- On 7 August, Imperial College London's COVID-19 Response team published new research in [Nature Medicine](#) which found that the distribution of mosquito nets could halve the number of deaths from malaria during the coronavirus outbreak in Africa.



Resources:

- [WHO Q&A](#) on the malaria vaccine implementation programme (MVIP)
- [Country by country modeling analysis](#) of potential impact of COVID in sub-Saharan Africa
- Check the status of anti-malaria campaigns in your country with our [country tracker](#)
- WHO updated Q&A on use of [hydroxychloroquine](#) and [artemisia](#)
- RBM Partnership to End Malaria COVID-19 and malaria [resource page](#)
- Recordings of the RBM Partnership's recent media briefings on COVID-19
 - [Amidst national shutdowns, countries mobilize to continue life-saving malaria campaigns](#)
 - [Malaria commodities: ensuring availability and affordability of life-saving tools](#)



What's coming up?

12 August: International Youth Day

20 August: World Mosquito Day

21 August: Malaria Gamechangers webinar - vector control tools for Asia Pacific

24-28 August: WHO AFRO regional meeting

25 August: RBM Partnership media briefing on Nigeria's efforts to maintain malaria programmes throughout the COVID-19 pandemic



Watch this space

In the run up to International Youth Day and World Mosquito Day this month, the malaria community will be announcing exciting new global malaria talent as well as new youth champions from across Africa, in new digital content campaigns to help bring attention to the vital importance of tackling malaria during the COVID-19 pandemic. More announcements to follow.

Please contact Emma Pomfret (emma.pomfret@malarianomore.org.uk) for further information.