

Evaluating the use of hydroxychloroquine to prevent COVID-19 for health care workers in low-resource settings

Project Summary

Problem

The **novel betacoronavirus SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)** has **infected millions worldwide**, killed over a million individuals and has spread to over 200 territories. This has affected a high proportion of medical staff, **impacting them at an individual level**, as well as their **families, patients and populations** they serve and the **continuity** of MSF care.

Proposed Solution

Investigate **hydroxychloroquine as a COVID-19 prophylaxis for frontline health care workers in low-resource settings**. Participate in a multi-site, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled **prophylaxis study (COPCOV)** sponsored by Oxford University. Leverage Epicentre's proven 20-year track record and capacity to **run a clinical trial of 400 participants in Niger**, which would be the first site in Africa among other Oxford study sites in Europe and Asia.



Potential Impact

- Generates **evidence on hydroxychloroquine's effectiveness** as a COVID-19 prophylaxis in low-resource settings for MSF frontline workers
- Meets a **need to provide COVID-19 protection**

Viability

- Leverage Epicentre's **proven track record, infrastructure & capacity** to implement trials
- Brings strong **project management** experience
- Aligns with Epicentre's **strategic objective** to inform MSF's medical policies and support **COVID-19 response**

Risk Mitigation

- Builds on **COPCOV protocol** for the study in Niger
- Links to **global stakeholders** including WHO, MORU, Oxford, & Université Adbou Moumani
- Includes a **risk analysis** and **clear mitigation plan**

Scalability

- Supports MSF's **duty-of-care responsibility** to staff and patients
- Has a strong **potential to accelerate the scale-up** of hydroxychloroquine across MSF projects

Area/Type: Medical Research and Development; Incubator

Sponsor/Support: OC Paris

Length/Project Status: 24 months; **ONGOING**