

Malaria R21 Vaccine

Area/Type: Medical R&D; Large Scale
Sponsor/Support: OCP/OCB,OCA
Length/Project Status: 2 years; **ONGOING**



TRANSFORMATIONAL
INVESTMENT
CAPACITY

Project Summary

Problem

Malaria is the **single largest pathology treated by MSF**, it is seasonally endemic in Chad and is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in the country. Between 2000-2015, scaling up new tools led to significant progress in malaria control. Since 2015, there has been **an increase in the global number of cases and deaths**. New tools are needed, and vaccines are one of the most promising.

Proposed Solution

Pilot a **new malaria vaccine R21** in the health region **Moïssala, Chad** before the seasonal peak. (1) Implement a cluster-randomized vaccination trial for 41,000 children to **reduce morbidity and mortality** and test two different implementation strategies; (2) **document and compare strategies**, communicate and publish implementation research results; (3) lay the foundation **for future advocacy and policy change by engaging key actors** (WHO, GAVI, Global Fund, Rollback Malaria), communicating intermediary results and lessons learned to facilitate knowledge sharing, and position MSF as a key stakeholder in malaria treatment.



Potential Impact

- Vaccinates 41,000 children, significantly **reducing morbidity and mortality**
- Tests implementation approaches that **increase access** to a malaria vaccine for **low-resource countries**
- Builds in **community-based and civil society engagement**

Viability

- Builds on a **strong relationship** with the **Chad Ministry of Health (MoH)**
- **Partners** with several African academics, global vaccine specialists and a professional health economist to contribute to the analysis
- Engages **Epicentre** as a partner with **deep experience** and **staff in Chad**

Risk Mitigation

- Requires/integrates approvals from Chad MoH and Ethical Review Board
- Builds in capacity to manage pharmacovigilance in the field

Scalability

- Scalable to other countries where MSF works with seasonal malaria - Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, etc.
- Gains experience with malaria vaccines for **earlier scale up**
- **Communicates and publishes findings** and shares experience within MSF and externally with WHO and key global actors