

The world's first malaria vaccine ready for distribution

The world's first effective malaria vaccine is finally available, but supply must grow significantly to meet demand.



Source: World Economic Forum

With an estimated 40 to 60 million doses currently to be needed by 2026 alone, growing to 80 to 100 million doses of vaccines needed each year by 2030, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, has published a [white paper](#) outlining actions that must be taken by governments, vaccine manufacturers and health agencies to meet this goal.

With 475,000 deaths of children under the age of five in 2021 on the African continent alone, malaria remains one of Africa's biggest killers, despite concerted efforts that have seen the global death toll drop by a third since 2000.

The pre-qualification of the world's first malaria vaccine – RTS,S/AS01e, developed and manufactured by GSK and which took more than three decades to develop – will save more lives, while a second vaccine, R21/Matrix-M, developed by Oxford University and manufactured by Serum Institute of India (SII), could also be prequalified and recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) very soon.

2026 production targets

The major impediment that now stands in the way of a widespread roll out of malaria vaccines in endemic countries is supply. According to Gavi's market-shaping [roadmap](#) for malaria vaccines, a production target of 40 to 60 million doses by 2026 is needed to meet countries' needs, increasing to 80 to 100 million doses by 2030.

Such an outcome would require countries and partners to work together in key areas such as demand forecasting, boosting the number of suppliers and technology transfer, the [report](#) argues.

The report also outlines Gavi's commitment to additional co-financing to ensure countries can access doses, support for countries to make timely applications, and fostering further innovation in malaria vaccination and greater integration with existing interventions.



Consortium sparks debate over intellectual property of mRNA vaccines manufactured in SA

Katja Hamilton 21 Apr 2023



Fifty years in development

“It has taken the world more than 50 years to develop a malaria vaccine,” said Seth Berkley, chief executive officer of Gavi. “Yet this year’s launch serves only as a reminder of what needs to happen now if we are to make malaria vaccines accessible to every child that needs them.

“We know how long African countries have waited for a vaccine against one of its greatest killers: if global health, countries, suppliers and civil society come together, we can soon contribute to preventing tens of thousands of child deaths every year along with other malaria-control interventions.”

Gavi’s market shaping work over more than 22 years has helped bring down prices and increase supply of life-saving vaccines and made them available to children everywhere with a focus on reaching zero dose children. With concerted efforts, Gavi and its partners will do the same for malaria.

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