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Gavi outlines plans to build sustainable supply of malaria vaccines

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2023 will see countries start to prepare for the rollout of the worldâ??s first malaria mass vaccinations



The world’s first effective malaria vaccine is finally available, but supply must grow significantly to meet demand. With an estimated 40-60 million doses currently to be needed by 2026 alone, growing to 80-100 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 5 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 WHO very soon.

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 40-60 million doses by 2026 is needed to meet countries’ needs, increasing to 80-100 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.