

MALARIA — a serious global health challenge



610K
DEATHS per year

95% OF DEATHS
IN AFRICA

African children are at highest risk

438K
CHILD DEATHS in Africa per year

WHO recommends malaria vaccines to prevent malaria in children. Countries can achieve highest impact in reducing malaria illness and deaths by using a tailored mix of WHO-recommended interventions.



Bringing malaria vaccines forward through the Malaria Vaccine Implementation Programme, MVIP

Between 2019 and 2023, over 2 million children received the RTS,S malaria vaccine through national immunization programmes as part of the MVIP in Ghana, Kenya and Malawi. The evaluation of its public health use informed WHO recommendations on malaria vaccines and generated invaluable lessons for future implementation.

1. The Lancet : 2015 | The New England Journal of Medicine : 2021 | The Lancet : 2024 | The Lancet : 2024 | WHO Guidelines for malaria : 2024

2. WHO position paper: May 2024

Malaria Vaccines (RTS,S/AS01 and R21/Matrix-M)

Two safe and effective vaccines are recommended by WHO to prevent malaria in children.

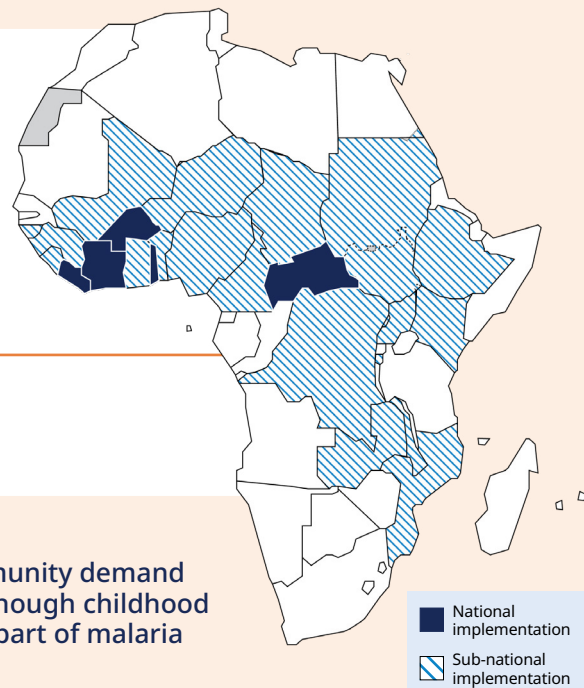
The scale up of malaria vaccines in Africa is increasing access to malaria prevention, reinvigorating malaria control, and will save tens of thousands of lives each year.

Malaria vaccines rollout across Africa

25 Countries

in Africa are implementing malaria vaccines to benefit millions of children every year

10M+ Children
targeted each year



There is high country and community demand for malaria vaccines delivered through childhood immunization programmes, as part of malaria control plans.

What we know about malaria vaccines

Clinical and other studies show **efficacy, safety and cost-effectiveness**¹

- ▲ **50%+ reduction** in malaria cases over the first year of follow up through aged-based vaccination delivery, and prolonged protection with 4th dose
- ▲ About **75% reduction** of malaria cases over the first year of follow up when malaria vaccines are given seasonally, just prior to the start of the high transmission season, and prolonged protection with annual seasonal doses
- ▲ **Good safety profiles**; both vaccines are prequalified by WHO
- ▲ Modelling studies predict the vaccines are **cost-effective** and provide high impact

Independent evaluation of pilot implementation demonstrates **high impact**²

Evaluations of pilot implementation of the RTS,S vaccine in childhood immunization in 3 African countries between 2019–2023 showed:

- ▲ Early childhood **deaths down by 13%**
- ▲ **Substantial drop** in hospitalizations for severe malaria
- ▲ Access to at least 1 malaria **prevention measure for children increased to >90%**
- ▲ **High community demand**
- ▲ **No unintended consequences** of vaccination: No reduction in insecticide-treated net use, uptake of other vaccines or care-seeking behaviour for fever.

WHO thanks Gavi, UNICEF and partners for their support of ministries of health to roll out life-saving malaria vaccines.