

## Fact Sheet: RTS,S/AS01 Malaria Vaccine (Mosquirix™)

- There were 212 million malaria cases worldwide in 2015 with 429,000 deaths. The majority of deaths are in children under the age of 5 living in sub-Saharan Africa. **In Ghana, malaria causes about 2,000 deaths annually, approximately 48% of which afflict children under the age of five.**
- Historically, vaccines have proved to be one of the most effective means of preventing disease and saving lives, particularly in the case of infectious diseases.
- Mosquirix™ is a vaccine that acts against *Plasmodium falciparum*, the most deadly malaria parasite globally, and the most prevalent in Africa.
- **Mosquirix™ is the first malaria vaccine to obtain a positive scientific opinion by the European Medicines Agency, a stringent medicines regulatory authority.**
- **Mosquirix™ Pilot Implementation Programme in 3 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, namely Ghana, Malawi and Kenya.**
  - The pilot implementation programme, coordinated by WHO, will assess the extent to which the vaccine's protective effect shown in advanced clinical trials can be replicated in real-life settings.
  - **Specifically, the pilot implementation programme will evaluate the feasibility of delivering the required 4 doses of the vaccine**; the impact of the vaccine on lives saved; and the safety of the vaccine in the context of routine use.
  - The vaccine is recommended to be given as an injection in four doses to children, with the first dose given as soon as possible after the age of 5 months. In Ghana, it will be given at 6, 7, 9 and 24 months of age.
- **The pilot implementation programme is due to begin in 2018.** There is a great deal of preparatory work that will need to be done before the programme begin.
- **The vaccine is being considered as a complementary malaria control tool in Ghana** that could potentially be added to – and not replace – the core package of proven malaria preventive, diagnostic and treatment interventions such as bed nets and indoor spraying with insecticides.
- **Ghana was chosen based on criteria including:**
  - High malaria burden and well-functioning malaria and immunization programmes.
  - A desire to engage in the vaccine pilot programme by national stakeholders – particularly the Ministry of Health.
  - Previous participation in the advanced (Phase 3) clinical trials for Mosquirix™.
- **Ghana applied based on the country's experience with Mosquirix™ during the clinical trials, besides being a malaria endemic country.** The existence of a robust regulatory, ethical and immunization systems and infrastructure in Ghana also played a critical role in the selection as part of three countries on the continent to participate in this programme.
- Mosquirix™ is a malaria vaccine that has been developed through a partnership between GSK and the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative (MVI), with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and from a network of African research centres that performed the studies.