Last updated: 14 October 2020

CONCEPT NOTE WITH PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Malaria Vaccine Advisory Committee (MALVAC) Stakeholder Meeting

Proposed Dates: 27-28 October 2020
Location: Web meeting

1. Background and Aims

While there has been a significant decrease in malaria burden over the last 20 years, recent data from 2015-2017 indicate that reductions in mortality and clinical incidence have stalled, and new tools are needed to help meet global control and elimination targets. RTS,S/AS01$_E$ is a successful step towards an effective first generation malaria vaccine and is currently undergoing pilot implementation in moderate-to-high transmission sites in Africa to assess its potential suitability for wide-scale introduction. Given the demonstrated feasibility of prevention through vaccines, continued development of next generation malaria vaccines that can provide higher levels of protection and reduce transmission will be a valuable addition to existing tools for malaria control and prevention.

A WHO consultation held on the 16th and 17th July 2019 discussed current challenges and opportunities in malaria vaccine R&D and options to improve end-to-end development pathways. Following on this initial consultation, a meeting is being convened by the WHO Initiative for Vaccine Research (IVR) and Global Malaria Programme (GMP) with the Malaria Vaccine Advisory Committee (MALVAC) to review priority areas to guide product development for malaria vaccine R&D. This will include a discussion of vaccine use-case scenarios and preferred product characteristics as well as a review of the state-of-the-art in malaria vaccine development to inform and update the WHO Global Health Observatory and the Malaria Technology R&D Roadmap.

2. Specific Objectives

1. Update on developments since the last MALVAC meeting
2. Agree a MALVAC work plan to include development of use-cases and PPCs, conduct a landscaping of the malaria vaccine pipeline, and deliver position statements
3. Review malaria vaccine use-case scenarios, begin discussion of preferred product characteristics (PPCs), and organise working groups to draft PPCs for each use-case
4. Develop plans, including the formation of working groups, to provide ongoing advice to product developers, including guidance on endpoints and considerations of thresholds in R&D progression, study designs and methodologies, and other clinical development pathway issues
5. Provide an update on horizon scanning of the malaria vaccine development pipeline for integration with WHO Global Health Observatory; identify key gaps and stakeholders to consult for up-to-date R&D information