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Medicines for Malaria Venture launches its 5-year plan targeting eradication

Developing next-generation drugs will require new funding of \$470 million for the next 5 years

Geneva, Switzerland, September 25, 2008 — A new arsenal of antimalarial drugs is critical in the global plan to eliminate and eradicate malaria according to Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), launching its business plan which set out its priorities and plans.

This 5-year plan answers the call for new tools as articulated in the first Global Malaria Action Plan launched today by the Roll Back Malaria (RBM) Partnership at the UN Summit in New York. MMV's plan describes the new medicines it expects to launch in the next two years and details how its research and global access strategies fit into the broader global goals of malaria control and eventual eradication.

With over 40 projects, MMV is managing the largest-ever portfolio of antimalarial research. In order to develop the new antimalarial drugs and help facilitate its wide use, MMV has budgeted US\$600 million over the next five years of which US\$130 million has been committed by donors including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and bi-lateral governments.

"The next 5 years will be a crucial period for MMV. With our partners, we will launch our first wave of new antimalarials. MMV is actively managing its portfolio to better align with the new global research agenda targeting long-term eradication," said Dr. Christopher Hentschel, CEO and President of MMV, "The investment needed is large, but we firmly believe that we can succeed in the vital drug innovation component of the goals set out by the international community in the Global Malaria Action Plan."

Among MMV's main priorities set out in its business plan are:

- Achieving international regulatory licensure for three new ACTs: Coartem[®] *Dispersible*, Eurartesim[®] and Pyramax[®] and provide clinical support to expand their use in special patient groups.
- Accelerating the development of new treatments, including a synthetic drug that mimics the mechanism of artemisinins, that can replace ACTs if and when this class of compounds falls to resistance.
- Expanding the drug development pipeline, including novel mechanisms of action, molecules that target the challenges of eradication – compounds that can cure malaria and prevent transmission which are synergistic with vaccine strategies.
- Developing and implementing joint product launch and access plans with its pharmaceutical partners to ensure maximum impact of new life-saving ACTs.

"Medicines play a critical role in the war against malaria. The contribution of MMV and its partners towards building an arsenal of new antimalarials is invaluable. Research of new tools is one of the three-part strategy in the Global Malaria Action Plan. We must ensure this investment is multiplied so that all people at risk will have access to effective and affordable drugs whenever and wherever they are needed," said Dr. Awa Marie Coll-Seck, Executive Director of Roll Back Malaria Partnership.

Eradication of malaria will inevitably take many decades. Given the long lead times involved in product development, solid investments in R&D *now* are critical to ensuring that the world has the right healthcare technologies for eradication including medicines, vaccines, and vector control tools. According to RBM Partnership, US\$750-900 million per year, for the next ten years, is needed to fund malaria research and development.

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MEDICINES FOR MALARIA VENTURE (MMV)

Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) is a non-profit organization created to discover, develop and deliver effective and affordable antimalarial drugs through public-private partnerships. Our vision is a world in which these innovative medicines will cure and protect the millions at risk of malaria and help to ultimately eradicate this terrible disease.

MMV is currently managing the largest-ever portfolio of over 40 antimalarial projects in collaboration with over 100 pharmaceutical, academic, and endemic-country partners. The portfolio includes 19 completely new classes of compounds. New and improved treatment solutions are urgently needed for the 3.3 billion people at risk from malaria. MMV is working to ensure that its products will have the greatest possible public health impact and, most importantly, save lives.

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