

PATH and MMV launch 5-year global initiative to support elimination of relapsing malaria

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Geneva, Switzerland and Seattle, WA, USA. PATH and Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) announce a 5-year, jointly-led initiative, **VivAccess**, to support countries in the elimination of *Plasmodium vivax* (*P. vivax*) malaria. The initiative is part of the larger global effort to support malaria-endemic countries in the adoption and use of new and existing tools, to facilitate well-tolerated and effective radical cure to prevent relapse. VivAccess's work is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

P. vivax is the most frequently occurring species of malaria parasite outside of sub-Saharan Africa, putting approximately 2.5 billion people at risk and causing around 7.5 million infections a year.¹ Each infection can lead to multiple relapses due to the parasite's ability to lie dormant in the liver. To completely clear the body of parasites and achieve radical cure, two drugs are required: one for the blood stage infection causing malaria symptoms, and another for the liver-stage. The class of liver-stage drugs currently used to treat *P. vivax* malaria can cause [hemolysis](#) in individuals who have the common genetic disorder G6PD deficiency that affects approximately 400 million people globally.² It is therefore important to test for G6PD deficiency in order to guide the appropriate use of liver-stage drugs.³

The goal of VivAccess is to support introduction and increased access to the suite of radical cure products to address these challenges.

"Because one infection caused by the *P. vivax* parasite has the uncanny ability to cause a patient to relapse in the absence of a new infective mosquito bite, it amplifies the burden of malaria, placing a huge burden on the individuals, communities and countries it infects," said [George Jagoe](#), Executive Vice President, Access & Product Management at MMV. "New tools to stop this cycle of disease have been developed, and more are in development. VivAccess is set to accelerate their access to those in need and in doing so protect patients from relapses and support countries to move towards malaria elimination."

Through VivAccess, the partnership will continue to work closely with the World Health Organization, National Malaria Control Programs, and country-based healthcare partners to support the introduction and use of these effective tools, which include malaria diagnostics, G6PD diagnostics, blood-stage drugs, and liver-stage radical-cure drugs. Guided by the leadership of national health agencies, VivAccess will provide support in terms of market analytics, technical expertise, and product delivery coordination as

¹ World Health Organization. [World Malaria Report 2018](#) (2018).

² European Network for Rare and Congenital Anaemias. [Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency](#) (2002).

³ World Health Organization. [Guide to G6PD deficiency rapid diagnostic testing to support *P. vivax* radical cure](#). (2018).



countries seek to introduce effective radical cure into national malaria protocols and accelerate progress towards their malaria elimination goals. In the process, the initiative will strengthen national and local capacities in alignment with the [WHO malaria strategic agenda](#).

“Relapsing malaria due to *Plasmodium vivax* is the most geographically widespread malaria, with well over 2 billion people living in areas of risk for infection, said [Dr. Larry Slutsker](#), Director of the PATH Center for Malaria Control and Elimination. “*Vivax* malaria causes massive suffering in terms of illness, anemia, and death. The new tools that we can now bring to bear through the VivAccess partnership present a unique opportunity to make progress against this major public health challenge and underscore the importance of continued investment in malaria research and development.”

About PATH

PATH is the leader in global health innovation. An international nonprofit organization, PATH saves lives and improves health, especially among women and children. PATH accelerates innovation across five platforms—vaccines, drugs, diagnostics, devices, and system and service innovations—that harness our entrepreneurial insight, scientific and public health expertise, and passion for health equity. By mobilizing partners around the world, PATH takes innovation to scale, working alongside countries primarily in Africa and Asia to tackle their greatest health needs. With these key partners, PATH delivers measurable results that disrupt the cycle of poor health. Learn more at www.path.org.

About MMV

Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) is a leading product development partnership (PDP) in the field of antimalarial drug research and development. Its mission is to reduce the burden of malaria in disease-endemic countries by discovering, developing and facilitating delivery of new, effective and affordable antimalarial drugs.

Since its foundation in 1999, MMV and partners have built the largest portfolio of antimalarial R&D and access projects ever assembled, have brought forward ten new medicines and have assumed the access stewardship of a further two. An estimated 1.9 million lives have been saved by these MMV co-developed medicines. MMV's success is based on its extensive partnership network of around 150 active partners including from the pharmaceutical industry, academia and endemic-countries.

MMV's vision is a world in which innovative medicines will cure and protect the vulnerable and underserved populations at risk of malaria, and help to ultimately eradicate this terrible disease.

For more information visit: www.mmv.org

MMV Disclaimer

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We ask you not rely unduly on these statements. Such forward-looking statements reflect the current views of Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) and its partner(s) regarding future events, and involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties. MMV accepts no liability for the information presented here, nor for the consequences of any actions taken on the basis of this information. Furthermore, MMV accepts no liability for the decisions made by its pharmaceutical partner(s), the impact of any of their decisions, their earnings and their financial status.