



PROJECT FACTSHEET

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MEDICINES FOR MALARIA VENTURE (MMV)



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(Swiss Malaria Group)

Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) is a non-profit organisation based in Geneva, Switzerland. It is recognised as the leading organisation in antimalarial drug Research and Development (R&D). With a network of over 375 partners around the world, MMV operates as a public-private Product Development Partnership (PDP). PDPs work to ensure progress in healthcare issues that neither the public nor the private sector can solve on their own. As a PDP, MMV addresses the lack of commercial incentive to undertake R&D for new medicines for malaria, while others focus on vector control tools, vaccines, and diagnostics, for malaria and neglected diseases of the developing world, such as sleeping sickness. MMV acts as a facilitator, bringing expertise in malaria drug R&D and dedicated sources of funding to committed researchers so they can collaborate on the right projects to fulfill their mission. SDC's strategy aims to enforce PDP's as mentioned in the message on Switzerland's International Cooperation 2013–2016.

Launched in 1999, MMV was one of the first PDPs. Initial seed funding came from the SDC, the UK Department for International Development, the Government of the Netherlands, the World Bank and the Rockefeller Foundation. In the current phase of 2012–2016, SDC contributes 8'000'000 CHF to MMV.

Overall goal

To reduce the burden of malaria in disease-endemic countries by discovering, developing and delivering new, effective and affordable antimalarial drugs.

Malaria is a disease of poverty. The social and economic impact of malaria is unacceptably high. Globally, an estimated 3.3 billion people in 97 countries and territories are at risk of malaria. In 2013, malaria caused an estimated 584'000 deaths, mostly among African children. Deaths are preventable in over 90% of cases with effective antimalarial drugs.

By 1999, the pharmaceutical industry had largely with-drawn from the active pursuit of new drugs for malaria. The extremely high costs involved in discovering, developing and registering pharmaceutical products to current regulatory standards (800 million to 1.2 billion U\$ per drug) could not be commercially justified. Between 1975 and 2004, only eight out of 1'556 new registered drugs were antimalarials. This long standing sluggishness in R&D of antimalarials emerged as a critical global public health issue, and gave rise to MMV.

MMV'S ALIGNMENT WITH SDC

Malaria will remain a strategic focus for SDC in the coming years and MMV's objectives fit in perfectly with SDC's health policy. Switzerland is recognised as a global leader in working towards a malaria-free world. It is in a unique position to help accelerate malaria elimination worldwide, with its board membership at the Global Fund and its leadership of the Swiss Malaria Group, of which MMV is a member, encompassing all major actors and organisations from academia, industry, PDPs and NGOs.

MMV addresses the most important unmet medical needs of malaria patients, developing medicines for:
a. the most vulnerable (children under 5 and pregnant women) and

- b. ensuring sustainable treatment solutions (medicines active against drug resistant strains of malaria, with simpler dosing regimens, as well as for transmission blocking, chemoprevention, relapse prevention).

MMV is a pioneer of the virtual pipeline model, managing partnerships with the public and private sectors, including researchers (academic and pharmaceutical), NGOs and non-profit organisations, clinical centres, international and national public health policy makers, and donors (public, private and philanthropic). In doing so, MMV is not only matching funds and know-how with academia and the private sector but also developing research capacity in malaria-endemic countries.

MMV also addresses the issue of poor access to prompt diagnosis and treatment, which remains a major challenge in many malaria-endemic countries. It works with industry and country-implementing partners to support innovative approaches.

Achievements

- 5 new antimalarial medicines brought forward
- 9 new molecules in human clinical trials
- 2 or more clearly differentiated preclinical candidates advanced each year

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Related Link: www.mmv.org

“Since 1999, MMV has brought forward five new affordable antimalarial drugs, in partnership with more than 375 public and private research-focused organisations. For example, a medicine for children was registered with Swissmedic in 2009 and 250 million treatments have since been delivered to over 50 countries.”

Dr. David Reddy, CEO, Medicines for Malaria Venture