

RBM Partnership Talking Points & Social Media Suggestions: mRNA malaria vaccine announcement

Background

On Monday, July 26, the [kENUP Foundation](#) and BioNTech announced a major vaccine project aimed at developing the first mRNA-based prophylactic malaria vaccine, supported by the World Health Organization, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, and other high-level partners and funders. In addition, BioNTech announced they are evaluating end-to-end mRNA vaccine production capacities in Africa and that they will co-locate with WHO technology transfer hubs, in alignment with Africa CDC's manufacturing strategy.

This announcement provides an opportunity for the RBM Partnership to emphasize the importance of new investments in transformative tools and sustainable vaccine production and supply solutions on the African continent to accelerate progress toward zero malaria.

Topline messages

- Today's announcement of a new project to develop an mRNA-based highly effective preventative malaria vaccine to protect people of all ages is a critical investment towards ending a historic disease that infects hundreds of millions each year. New commitments to develop transformative tools to fight malaria are critical to ending the disease within a generation.
- We also welcome plans to develop sustainable manufacturing capability in Africa to prepare for deployment of a successful vaccine.
- Investments in developing and scaling up a suite of proven malaria interventions have helped save millions of lives from malaria and prevent over a billion malaria infections, paving the way toward ending malaria. By expanding access to a comprehensive suite of existing proven tools and developing and scaling up access to transformative tools, we can achieve the global goal of a malaria-free world.

Talking points

- **The RBM Partnership to End Malaria welcomes the announcement of a major project by BioNTech – a new partner in the malaria fight – to develop the first mRNA-based prophylactic vaccine for malaria and to invest in developing sustainable manufacturing capability in Africa.** The project is initiated by the kENUP Foundation's "eradicateMalaria" initiative, a platform run by kENUP Foundation in close cooperation with WHO, supported by the European Commission, the European Investment Bank and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- **Malaria is a preventable and treatable disease that still infects hundreds of millions each year and killed 409,000 people in 2019 – the majority of which are children under 5.** Malaria puts people's lives and livelihoods at risk, distresses fragile health systems, and keeps families in cycles of poverty.
- **Continued innovation and investment in transformative tools is essential to stay ahead of the malaria parasite and mosquito and end malaria within a generation.** Defeating this complex disease requires deploying the right mix of effective tools and approaches at the right time to protect the

gains we've made, address unique local challenges and accelerate progress. Our current toolset is not sufficient to achieve eradication in the hardest-to-reach places.

- **A highly efficacious, preventative malaria vaccine for people of all ages would be a game-changer.** Today's announcement signals a bold new investment and creates momentum for the transformative tools and investments that WHO Director General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and experts [called for](#) to achieve eradication within a generation.
- **Equally important is continuing to scale up proven tools that are failing to reach millions of people at greatest risk.** It will take more than a vaccine to defeat malaria. We need increased investments to introduce new approaches and strategies and to expand access to a comprehensive mix of existing and new life-saving tools – such as insecticide-treated nets (ITNs), seasonal malaria chemoprevention (SMC) and intermittent preventive treatment in pregnancy (IPTp).
- **Building sustainable local manufacturing capacity is critical to ensuring equitable access to life-saving tools.** The RBM Partnership welcomes plans from BioNTech to build manufacturing capability in Africa and to co-locate with technology hubs under development by WHO in alignment with the Africa Centers for Disease Control's African manufacturing strategy.
- **Ongoing and increased investments in ending malaria are essential to increasing health capacity and improving countries' pandemic preparedness and response.**
- **Significant investment – from the private sector, governments and philanthropy – in research and development and to quickly scale up delivery of game-changing technologies can save millions of lives.** We call on these same players to bring this same commitment to ending malaria.

Social Media Suggestions

Twitter

- Today we welcome the launch of a new #mRNAvaccine research project to address a deadly disease that infects millions each year. But this time it's not for #COVID19...it's for #malaria 🦋 Read more about why innovation is essential to #EndMalaria for good. 📌 bit.ly/3iMDpW1
- Today @BioNTech_Group, @KenupFoundation and partners have announced an exciting project aiming to develop an #mRNAvaccine for #malaria! Innovation has already saved millions of lives, yet new, transformative tools are still needed to #EndMalaria for good 🦋 bit.ly/3iMDpW1
- Good news! 🎉 A new #mRNAvaccine to #EndMalaria - alongside increased investment to expand access to proven #malaria tools - would accelerate progress towards #ZeroMalaria and a healthier, safer, more equal world. bit.ly/3iMDpW1

- 🙌🙌🙌 We applaud new #malaria partners @BioNTech_Group & @KenupFoundation for committing to develop an #mRNAvaccine & build sustainable local manufacturing capacity in Africa. bit.ly/3iMDpW1

Twitter Partner Handles

@KenupFoundation

@BioNTech_Group

@_AfricanUnion

@AfricaCDC

@EIB

@DrTedros

@JNkengasong

@gatesfoundation

@endmalaria

Hashtags

#EndMalaria

#mRNAvaccine

#MalariaVaccine

#ZeroMalaria

LinkedIn

- Today's announcement of a new project from [BioNTech SE] to develop a highly effective mRNA-based preventative malaria vaccine to protect people of all ages is a critical investment towards ending an ancient disease that still infects hundreds of millions each year. The [kENUP Foundation] eradicateMalaria project will support BioNTech's commitment to develop sustainable vaccine production and supply solutions in Africa.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the world how investments in research and development for game-changing technologies can lead to breakthrough solutions in record time. It also taught us that we must be prepared to deliver vaccines effectively and equitably. To do this, we must start building sustainable local manufacturing capacity now so that the vaccine – if highly effective – can save lives as soon as it's available.

But a vaccine isn't the only answer to ending malaria within a generation. We must make sure that existing and new malaria interventions and tools can reach those who need them most.

bit.ly/3iMDpW1