Malaria

Contributing to the fight against malaria

Novartis has been in the front ranks of a revolution in the treatment of malaria, launching the first fixed-dose artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT) in 1999 and the first dispersible pediatric ACT developed in partnership with Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) in 2009.

Further, in a landmark agreement with the World Health Organization, we committed to making our ACT available without profit to the public sector of malaria-endemic countries. Although the agreement expired, we continue to provide treatments on the same terms as before.

To date, we have delivered more than 900 million treatment courses of our antimalarial, Coartem, including more than 390 million courses of our child-friendly formulation in 50 countries, contributing to a significant reduction in malaria death.

USD 100 m

FROM NOVARTIS to advance R&D of next-generation treatments through 2023

Two

OF THE MOST ADVANCED malaria development programs led by Novartis

>900 m

ANTIMALARIALS delivered by Novartis
Researching and developing next-generation treatments

In 2018, Novartis announced a commitment of more than USD 100 million to advance research and development of next-generation treatments through 2023.

We currently lead two of the most advanced malaria development programs worldwide, featuring compounds that employ new mechanisms of action and activity against resistant strains of the disease.

KAF156 belongs to a novel class of antimalarial compounds that act against both the blood and liver stages of the parasite’s lifecycle. It demonstrated activity against both vivax and falciparum malaria, including artemisinin-resistant parasites. Novartis leads the development of this compound with scientific and financial support from MMV in collaboration with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

KAE609 is another novel antimalarial compound demonstrating rapid clearance of parasites preclinically and in patients. Novartis is leading the development of KAE609 in collaboration with MMV and with financial support from the Wellcome Trust.

Malaria continues to strike hardest against pregnant women and children in Africa. As part of the PAMAfrica research consortium led by MMV, we are now developing a new formulation of our ACT to address the needs of infants weighing less than five kilograms. The clinical trial is scheduled to start in 2020.

Going beyond the pill

We aim to extend our contribution to areas beyond treatment. For instance, in Nigeria, we are working with partners and PPMVs (patent and proprietary medicine vendors) to drive community case management initiatives for children in the areas of health worker education, screening and access to treatment. We expect to expand to additional countries in Sub-Saharan Africa over the next two to three years. We are also initiating disease awareness campaigns and capacity-building activities for healthcare professionals.

Further, Novartis works with partners such as the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership to develop African clinical trial networks. We believe that developing clinical trial infrastructure in Africa will benefit a new wave of research in disease areas other than malaria, while training a new generation of African scientists.

Building advocacy

In 2018 and 2019, we commissioned opinion research in Africa, and in five countries in South and Southeast Asia on progress and remaining challenges toward the 2030 malaria elimination goals. This work brought voices from local malaria experts – from government, the research community and NGOs – into the global debate.

1 http://bit.ly/MalaFA-research