

Technical assistance for malaria vaccine implementation in Africa



Photo: A health worker prepares to administer a dose of malaria vaccine at the Athénée health center in Mbanza Ngungu health zone, Kongo Central Province, DRC. Credit: PATH/Gloddy Tabende.

The rollout of malaria vaccines represents a historic turning point in child survival across sub-Saharan Africa. While this breakthrough has the potential to significantly reduce severe illness and deaths from malaria, realizing this impact relies on countries' ability to deliver the full multi-dose schedule to eligible children.

Building on decades of experience, PATH provides targeted technical assistance to countries to strengthen malaria vaccine delivery within routine immunization systems and in the context of national malaria programs. Working alongside ministries of health (MOH) and local communities, PATH supports governments to implement tailored interventions to deliver the vaccines to children who need them most.

PATH's technical assistance for malaria vaccine implementation

As of April 2026, 25 countries in Africa are providing malaria vaccines, with the potential to reach more than 10 million children annually.¹ PATH currently provides in-depth technical assistance in five high-burden countries: Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Mozambique, Nigeria, and Uganda.

In these countries, the malaria vaccine's four-dose regimen—with the fourth dose given in the second year of life—presents unique delivery challenges and a high risk of missed vaccinations. For the best protection, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that the vaccines be delivered as part of a broader package of malaria prevention tools that also include insecticide-treated nets, indoor residual

spraying, chemoprevention, and other approved interventions.² Together, these factors underscore the need for tailored, context-specific strategies to support effective implementation.

PATH's malaria vaccine technical assistance responds to these challenges by helping countries augment proven immunization strategies with innovative, locally developed solutions that reflect global recommendations, country policies, national and sub-national health system structures, and community needs.

Our work also builds on early learnings from the Malaria Vaccine Implementation Program, which piloted the introduction of malaria vaccines in Ghana, Kenya, and Malawi from 2019 to 2023. Coordinated by WHO, with technical support from PATH and other partners, the pilot program provided invaluable insights, best practices, and lessons related to malaria vaccine implementation.³

PATH's technical assistance includes the following key areas of focus:

- **Strengthening planning and coordination at national and subnational levels:** PATH supports ministries of health to drive informed decision-making through technical working groups and structured coordination. This includes assistance with microplanning, mapping malaria vaccine introduction areas, identifying eligible children, and developing integrated communication and demand promotion workplans.
- **Bolstering data capture and use:** Accurate and timely data are essential for effective malaria vaccine delivery. PATH helps countries conduct data quality assessments, supports the development of health facility action plans, and provides ongoing supervision and mentoring to improve data capture across registers, home-based records, and digital platforms. Regular data review helps partners better monitor data quality and track immunization coverage.



Photo: A data quality improvement training in Pebane District, Zambezia Province, Mozambique. PATH provides ongoing supervision and mentoring to improve data capture for malaria vaccine delivery. Credit: PATH.

- **Supporting health worker communication and outreach:** PATH works with facility-based and community health workers to strengthen both technical knowledge of the malaria vaccine schedule and communication skills. Through mentoring, job aids, and supportive supervision,

health workers are better equipped to identify eligible children, reduce missed opportunities for vaccination, and respond to caregivers' questions and concerns.

- **Co-creating community strategies:** Community engagement is central to PATH's technical assistance, which is built on trust and shared ownership. We work alongside community leaders, youth, women's groups, and community organizations to co-create strategies that reflect local realities. This process begins with active listening—gathering insights directly from the community to ensure that our technical assistance and implementation plans address challenges.
- **Collaborating with local and non-traditional partners:** Recognizing the influence of trusted local actors, PATH helps countries engage a wide range of partners and strengthen collaboration between malaria and immunization programs. This involves coordinating with other health initiatives, such as those run by local groups in communities, and inviting support from trusted and familiar figures who can amplify accurate information and support vaccine uptake.
- **Increasing supply chain readiness:** PATH provides technical assistance to bolster forecasting and stock management. Through cold chain assessments and monitoring of stock levels, we help countries bridge logistical gaps and prevent missed opportunities for vaccination.

Documenting and applying best practices

A core feature of PATH's malaria vaccine technical assistance is our focus on documenting and applying lessons learned. Across each country, PATH tracks progress through monitoring, evaluation, and learning, identifying opportunities for course correction. By documenting challenges, how partners address them, and what we learned, these lessons and strategies may be applied and scaled up in other areas.

References

¹ World Health Organization. World Malaria Day 2026. Accessed April 22, 2026.

<https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-malaria-day/2026>.

² World Health Organization. Malaria vaccines. Accessed April 22, 2026. [https://www.who.int/teams/immunization-](https://www.who.int/teams/immunization-vaccines-and-biologicals/diseases/malaria)

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³ PATH. Developing the world's first malaria vaccine (RTS,S). Accessed April 22, 2026. [https://www.path.org/our-](https://www.path.org/our-impact/case-studies/developing-the-worlds-first-malaria-vaccine-rtss/)

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