

## PRESS RELEASE

### Ifakara tests efficacy of new, more effective malaria vaccine

> *Similar tests undertaken in three other African countries*

*October 4, 2021, Bagamoyo.* Ifakara Health Institute clinicians administered the first doses of a new malaria vaccine in Tanzania on Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021. Three babies aged 5 - 36 months received their first japs at Kiwangwa area in Bagamoyo.

Ifakara's Head of Interventions & Clinical Trials Dr. Ally Olotu informed that the ongoing study was "part of a multi-center phase III trial that investigates the efficacy of this promising vaccine R21 in four African countries" with the study countries being Tanzania, Kenya, Mali and Burkina Faso.

Earlier this year, a phase II trial of the same vaccine showed an efficacy of 77% against clinical malaria in Burkina Faso in children of same age group – meeting the WHO set milestone of 75% malaria vaccine efficacy by 2030.

The promise shown in early clinical trials raises hopes that the vaccine, technically known as "R21", might one day prove to be an effective weapon against one of the world's biggest killers of people, particularly children.

#### **More: About the R21 vaccine**

R21 is different from the recently approved vaccine by WHO that was deployed in hundreds of thousands of children in Malawi, Kenya and Ghana. That vaccine, called "RTS,S" or "Mosquirix," has a limited efficacy, preventing 39% of malaria cases and 29% of severe malaria cases among small children in Africa over four years in a phase III trial. Although both vaccines target a similar stage of malaria parasite, R21 is designed to be both more potent and cheaper to produce than Mosquirix.

#### **About Ifakara Health Institute**

**Ifakara** is a leading research organization in Africa with a strong track record in developing, testing and validating innovations for health. Driven by a core strategic mandate for research, training and services, the Institute's work now spans a wide spectrum, covering biomedical and ecological sciences, intervention studies, health-systems research and policy translation. [More about Ifakara.](#)

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