

**PRESS RELEASE**

The Minister of Public Health, Dr Malachie MANAOUA informs the general public that on 21 November 2023, Cameroon received **331,200 doses of vaccine against malaria**, as an additional tool for controlling this disease.

As instructed since November 2021 and validated by WHO, the process of introducing this vaccine followed all the essential required steps, including the approval of the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG) in May 2022 and the Inter-Agency Coordination Committee (CCIA) in June 2022. The validation of this vaccine by our two national scientific committees on vaccination, enabled the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) and the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) to stratify the risks of malaria-related deaths and select priority Health Districts with high malaria transmission in February 2023.

Indeed, the RTS,S vaccine with the commercial name Mosquirix®, is a vaccine based on recombinant protein such as the vaccine against viral Hepatitis B. It took several decades of research to be developed in the laboratory by African researchers, including our compatriot Professor Rose LEKE. The clinical research phase went through five randomized clinical trials in 07 African countries involving 15,459 children followed up for 05 years. The demonstration phase was carried out in Kenya, Ghana and Malawi with 1.7 million children vaccinated.

Based on the efficacy of the results obtained, the introduction of this vaccine, within a global framework for the fight against malaria which synergizes several interventions (insecticide-treated mosquito nets, Intermittent Preventive Treatment, and Vaccination), will make it possible to cover the entire childhood, and depending on the coverage rate, avoid about 2,000 deaths among children under 5 years of age, every year.

The Minister of Public Health specifies that the most common adverse effects of this vaccine are in particular: fever (27% of cases) and irritability (14%); pain at the injection site (16%); swelling at the injection site (07%). All of these adverse effects go away 72 hours after vaccination. Febrile convulsion within 7 days following vaccination, reported in 0.1% of vaccinated children, is the most serious adverse event.

Regarding the financing of this vaccine, it should be noted that the dose is normally billed at 9.7 US dollars, but with regard to the acceptance in August 2023 of our request for support submitted to the GAVI Alliance for

vaccination, Cameroon contributes, for this first year, up to 0.2 US dollars per dose. Also, for the expected 1,295,600 doses of the malaria vaccine, our country will pay a total of FCFA 155.4 million and GAVI Alliance will bear FCFA 3.6 billion. In this regard, the 331,200 doses received on November 21 cost our country FCFA 39,744,000. **In this light, the 331 200 doses received on November 21 costed exactly FCFA 39 744 000 for our country.**

Furthermore, he notes that a second vaccine developed in Burkina-Faso and which shows an efficacy of 67% after 3 years of monitoring, has just been approved by WHO and Cameroon will seize the opportunity at any time to transition a more adequate vaccine as soon as the stock is accessible, in order to continue protecting our children.

Apart from Cameroon, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Liberia, Niger, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sierra Leone will in turn receive considerable doses for their national malaria control programmes in the days ahead.

Dr Malachie MANAOUA therefore urges the populations to remain vigilant and have confidence in the health policy of the State encouraged by HEAD OF STATE, HIS EXCELLENCY PAUL BIYA.

Yaounde, 29 NOV 2023


The Minister of Public Health,
Dr MANAOUA Malachie