



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## The Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV)

### The Product Development Partnership III Fund

**Despite global progress against malaria, in 2015 over 200 million people were infected and 438,000 people died from the disease, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa.**

Furthermore, 70% of those who died were young children. Pregnant women are also disproportionately affected by malaria, with around 125 million pregnancies at risk every year. Medicines are currently available to treat *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria, the most prevalent form of the disease in Africa, but these are 3-day treatment courses, and patients often do not complete course. It is widely understood that this lack of compliance carries the risk of parasite resistance developing to the drugs.

In 2008, evidence of resistance to artemisinin combination therapies (ACT), the gold standard antimalarial, was reported at the Thai-Cambodian border region. Today, there is evidence of its spread, as ACTs are taking longer and longer to clear the parasite from patients further afield in South-East Asia. This longer parasite clearance time with ACTs is clear warning that we urgently need new classes of antimalarials. Ideally, a single-dose cure that needs just one administration could ensure that complete treatment is directly observed by the healthcare worker.

**The mission of Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) is to reduce the burden of malaria by assembling a large pipeline of new, well-tolerated, effective and affordable antimalarials.**

MMV is a leading Product Development Partnership (PDP), established in 1999 as a not-for-profit Swiss foundation to counter the perilous absence of new medicines for malaria. Its vision is a world in which innovative medicines will cure and protect the vulnerable and under-served populations at risk of malaria, and ultimately help to eradicate this terrible disease.

#### **Previous funding by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Over the last 16 years, in collaboration with partners and support from donors, MMV has assembled the largest-ever pipeline of antimalarials, and has brought forward six new medicines, two of which are much-needed paediatric formulations. These new drugs are already saving lives and have helped contribute to the impressive halving of global malaria mortality from 2000 to 2015.

MMV's overarching priority is to develop child-friendly formulations and new medicines to protect pregnant women, as this group is the hardest hit by malaria. Projects progressing through the pipeline include nine new drugs in clinical development addressing unmet medical needs in malaria, including medicines for this under-served population as well as new treatments for relapsing malaria, and drugs that could support the elimination/ eradication agenda. MMV's portfolio also includes promising compounds in early phases of discovery and preclinical development with the potential to counter resistance, block malaria transmission and cure relapsing malaria, a form of the disease mostly prevalent in Southeast Asia and South America.

Since its foundation MMV has built an impressive network in over 50 countries of more than 375 partners from the public and private sectors, from NGOs and non-profit organizations, and from clinical facilities in disease-endemic countries. With sustained financial support from donors, MMV brings together academic brain, pharmaceutical muscle, and its own wealth of scientific and malaria

expertise in a dedicated effort to contribute to the defeat of this disease. This catalytic ability makes MMV a highly cost-effective, productive and successful R&D organization.

Support from the MoFA will enable MMV to strengthen its current portfolio, and help accelerate the provision of key medicines to vulnerable patients who urgently need them.

Total budget lead applicant (5 years)	€ 168,755,233
Contribution by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs	€ 14,942,667

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This is a publication of:  
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This publication has been commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.  
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#### The Product Development Partnerships III Fund of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Product Development Partnerships III Fund (PDP III) contributes to innovation in the areas of healthcare products and technologies specifically aimed at diseases and conditions related to poverty and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). The fund focuses on the development and availability of affordable, effective medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and innovative products for neglected diseases and conditions, with a view to combating poverty and inequality. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs therefore supports PDPs, which are public-private partnerships set up to accelerate the development and availability of products which are unlikely to attract private investment while in development.