

Overview

Webinar theme: Launch of the OPT-MVAC webinar series, focused on **vaccination coverage surveys** for the **malaria vaccine** (and selected routine antigens) across participating countries.

Project context (OPT-MVAC)

- Collaborative, implementation-research consortium supporting countries introducing malaria vaccines in seasonal malaria settings.
- Goal: **optimize delivery and uptake** of the malaria vaccine, document barriers, test/adjust strategies, and **share best practices** across countries/programs (EPI/PEV, NMCP/PNLP, Pharmacovigilance).

Main technical content: the “generic research kit”

- Presented as a **standardized WHO-aligned package** to help countries run coverage surveys quickly and consistently.
- Kit includes: **protocol template**, **standard questionnaires** (household + caregiver/child), **informed consent forms** (written or verbal depending on national requirements), and **field monitoring tools** (callbacks, SOP-style tracking, supervision).
- Method highlights: **cluster sampling** (1–2 stage options), defined target age groups (often **12–23 months** for primary series; dose 4 depends on national schedule), community engagement, training + pilot, daily quality control.
- Ethics/data: ethics review required; confidentiality and secure data handling emphasized; data ownership remains with countries.

Key discussion points

- **When to run the coverage survey:** ideally after enough vaccinated cohorts exist—guidance discussed as roughly **~18 months post-introduction** (can be earlier but precision drops).
- **Timeline/effort:** surveys require substantial planning (training, logistics, fieldwork, analysis), plus ethics approval time.
- **Avoid duplication/cost:** countries already planning broader “all-antigen” surveys should explore **integrating malaria vaccine components** rather than running separate expensive surveys; approach will be **case-by-case**.
- Pharmacovigilance adverse events question was acknowledged but deferred to a **future dedicated webinar**.

Next steps agreed

1. Share the **full kit (FR/EN)** with all countries.
2. Hold **bilateral country calls** to adapt the protocol, clarify roles/responsibilities, set a timeline, and agree on the most useful design (or alternatives where coverage surveys are too far in the future).
3. Start administrative preparations early (contracts/processes) to avoid delays.
4. Launch a **needs-assessment survey** to prioritize future webinar topics (coverage, qualitative research, effectiveness, PV, etc.).