

# Social-Structural Implications of Malaria Vaccine Trials in Equatorial Guinea.

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The Equato-Guinean Malaria Vaccine Initiative (EGMVI) was established in 2014. The goal of the EGMVI is to reach elimination on the island of Bioko, in conjunction with the Bioko Island Malaria Control Program. New strategies to achieve this goal are being planned through the inclusion of the PfSPZ Vaccine with other standard malaria control interventions. The EGMVI recently completed the second phase of clinical trials to determine product safety and efficacy, in route toward applying the vaccine on Bioko's population. Before entering Phase III trials, it will be important to understand the community perception of the candidate malaria vaccine. The primary goal is to understand the potential impact of malaria vaccine clinical trials on socio-economic and health (SEH) aspects of trial participants in their respective communities. Understanding attitudes towards the vaccine, perceived benefits and concerns, are important for designing communication strategies, and will inform how SEH dynamics may impact subsequent vaccine uptake. Mixed-methods will be used to analyze data from participants from several neighboring communities where clinical trials are held. Data will come from qualitative focus group discussions and in-depth interviews. Quantitative surveys will be administered to capture data on individuals from trial and non-trial communities. Health professionals and community stakeholders will also be surveyed. Findings suggest that participant motivation to participate and to recommend their family members and friends to participate in trials will influence subsequent vaccine uptake. Identified desired channels of vaccine administration and its implications for the cost effectiveness of a mass vaccination on Bioko Island will be discussed.