



Taking Action to Protect Antimalarial Treatments: Key Recommendations from the African #ProtectTheCure Dialogues

The recommendations presented below are the outcome of strategic consultations conducted as part of the #ProtectTheCure initiative, during two key moments: a regional dialogue on antimalarial drug resistance held in Accra, and a working meeting convened in Dakar.

These exchanges brought together National Malaria Control Programmes (NMCPs), parliamentarians, scientific experts, civil society actors, technical partners, and decision-makers, united by a shared objective: to identify priority, realistic, and coordinated actions to anticipate antimalarial drug resistance, strengthen surveillance, support therapeutic innovation, and ensure a sustainable and effective response to malaria in Africa.

The recommendations are structured around the following focus areas:

1. Strengthen surveillance and anticipation of resistance

- Establish and strengthen **national and regional epidemiological surveillance** systems for antimalarial drug resistance.
- Ensure early detection of **resistance markers** in order to rapidly adapt treatment policies and protocols.
- Promote **cross-border data** and information sharing, recognizing that resistance knows no borders.
- Develop regional, collective surveillance mechanisms to enable a coordinated and effective response.

2. Act proactively and in alignment with international standards

- Adopt a **proactive approach**, without waiting for widespread resistance to emerge.
- Align national strategies with **WHO recommendations** and the most recent scientific evidence.
- Integrate resistance containment into **long-term public health policies**.

3. Support therapeutic innovation and research

- Accelerate the development and introduction of **new therapeutic combinations**, including:
 - Multiple artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs)
 - Multiple **non-artemisinin-based** combination therapies
- Explore innovative strategies, such as **triple-drug combination therapies**, to delay the emergence of resistance.
- Integrate **new malaria control tools**, including malaria vaccines, as complements to existing prevention and treatment strategies.

4. Ensure equitable access to quality medicines

- Ensure the continuous availability of effective, safe, and quality-assured antimalarial medicines.
- Guarantee **equitable access** to treatment, particularly for vulnerable populations.
- Strengthen pharmaceutical regulation, including **requiring a medical prescription** for access to antimalarials, in line with guidance from National Orders of Pharmacists.
- Combat the circulation and use of **unverified or substandard medicines**.

5. Ensure sustainable financing and strengthened governance

- Maintain and increase **investments** in prevention, surveillance, and access to treatment.
- Strengthen **budget advocacy** by actively engaging parliamentarians and policy-makers.
- **Provide technical support**, in collaboration with the RBM Partnership to End Malaria, for the establishment of a **centralized medicines procurement unit in the Central African Republic (CAR)**, to improve supply chains and input management.

6. Strengthen the capacities of health systems and stakeholders

- Build and reinforce **national health system** capacities, particularly through continuous training of health professionals.
- Improve the dissemination and uptake of **scientific knowledge** by frontline actors.
- Use communication and advocacy tools, such as the Protect The Cure documentary, to train and raise awareness among community health workers.

7. Strengthen community engagement and multisectoral collaboration

- Raise community awareness on the importance of **completing full treatment courses**.
- Strengthen community engagement in malaria **prevention and case management**, including among adolescents.
- Encourage **multisectoral collaboration** across health, research, civil society, and policy-making sectors.