



KINTAMPO HEALTH
RESEARCH CENTRE

FEBRUARY 2025
EDITION

KHRC FOCUS

MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER



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KHRC CONTRIBUTES TO GLOBAL RESEARCH AGENDA ON MALARIA VACCINE INTRODUCTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Global research agenda on malaria vaccine introduction and implementation

Technical report



The Kintampo Health Research Centre (KHRC) proudly contributes to the development of global research agenda on malaria vaccine introduction and implementation by the World Health Organization to support rollout. KHRC and PATH co-led the broad stakeholder consultations with immunization and malaria experts to identify key knowledge gaps and information needed to be addressed for effective vaccine scale up. The full technical report and research brief are now available:

<https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/380229>

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STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS FOR MALARIA ELIMINATION: PATH TEAM VISITS KHRC

The Kintampo Health Research Centre (KHRC) welcomed a team from the Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH), Dr. Megan Littrell, Program Director and Mr. Taj Munson, Program Finance Director. The visit was aimed to gain better understanding of how a clinical trial led by KHRC is being carried out.

The clinical trial titled, “The Impact of a Combination of the RTS,S/AS01E Malaria Vaccine and Perennial Malaria Chemoprevention In Ghanaian Children (MalVac PMC),” seeks to evaluate whether a combination of Malaria Vaccine (MalVac) and Perennial Malaria Chemoprevention (PMC) given to children in Ghana can further reduce malaria cases and deaths. The visit also sought to deepen collaboration between PATH, one of the funders of the MalVac PMC trial, and KHRC.



From Monday, 3rd to Friday, 7th February 2025, the PATH learnt more about the trial's implementation activities, data management and financial systems, and explored ways to provide additional support for successful project implementation. During the visit, the KHRC team delivered a detailed presentation on the study's progress and other research projects at the Centre. The team toured the Centre's facilities including the clinical laboratory, the data science department and trial clinic. The team also visited the study site to observe trial activities, interact with study participants and engage with community health workers supporting the trial.



Dr. Littrell revealed that the MalVac PMC trial is the largest study funded by her outfit and expressed excitement over KHRC's research impact and the progress made in malaria prevention.

Prof. Kwaku Poku Asante, Director of KHRC, expressed gratitude to PATH for their continued support. He revealed that after successfully implementing the RTS,S malaria vaccine trial, which is currently part of the routine immunization programme in Ghana, KHRC sought new research opportunities, leading to its involvement in the MalVaC PMC trial. He acknowledged the trust placed in KHRC by the funding partners, adding that, "collaborations should be built on trust, mutual respect and faith in one's ability to deliver."



The [MalVac PMC](#) trial is a three-year study conducted in partnership with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and implemented in the Atebubu-Amantin Municipality of the Bono East Region of Ghana, where malaria is prevalent. If successful, this trial could shape global malaria prevention strategies.

KHRC, PATH PRESENT MOTORBIKES TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY HEALTH IN ATEBUBU



The Kintampo Health Research Centre (KHRC), in partnership with PATH, has presented three Yamaha Motorcycles and three crash helmets to the Atebubu-Amantin Municipal Health Directorate in the Bono East Region. This presentation, made on Thursday, February 6, 2025, aims to improve healthcare services in communities within the municipality and to

enable the health directorate to continue to support the MalVac PMC trial.



The MalVac PMC trial, titled “The Impact of a Combination of the RTS,S/AS01E Malaria Vaccine and Perennial Malaria Chemoprevention In Ghanaian Children (MalVac PMC),” is funded by GiveWell, Gates Foundation and PATH, a US-based international non-profit health organization. It is implemented by KHRC in over 40 communities within the Atebubu-Amantin Municipality of the Bono East Region of Ghana.

During the presentation, the team from PATH, Dr. Megan Littrell and Mr. Taj Munson, expressed appreciation to the Health Directorate for their role in ensuring the success of the trial in the municipality.



Receiving the motorbikes, Dr. Michael Mireku Opoku, Municipal Director of Health Services, Atebubu-Amantin municipality, thanked KHRC and PATH for their support. He said that the motorbikes would greatly improve healthcare delivery municipality and expressed excitement over the MalVac PMC trial.

Prof. Kwaku Poku Asante, Director of KHRC, highlighted that the presentation of the motorbikes will address transportation challenges faced by health workers, and support the MalVac PMC study.

[MalVac PMC](#) is a three-year study that seeks to evaluate whether combining the RTS,S malaria vaccine with PMC, for children at high risk, can further reduce malaria cases and deaths. Conducted in partnership with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the study’s findings could help shape global malaria prevention strategies.

PROF. ASANTE CALLS FOR STRATEGIC DECISION-MAKING IN HEALTH RESEARCH FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



Prof. Kwaku Poku Asante, Director of the Kintampo Health Research Centre (KHRC), has urged health research institutions to make structured and strategic decisions to ensure their sustainability and impact. He emphasized that the future of research centres depends on well-planned operations that consider changing policies and funding opportunities.

“The decisions we make today will determine the future of our research institutions.

We must be strategic in how we structure our operations, considering the changing environment in research, national policies, data sharing and staff recruitment,” he stressed. He urged research staff to commit to making both personal impact and contributing to institutional progress.



Prof. Asante made these remarks while chairing the 2025 Performance Review Meeting of the Research and Development Division (RDD) of the Ghana Health Service (GHS), on behalf of Dr. Abraham Oduro, Director of RDD. The two-day meeting, held at the Navrongo Health Research Centre (NHRC), brought together key representatives from NHRC, KHRC, and Dodowa Health Research Centre (DHRC), officials from RDD Headquarters in Accra and the Upper East Regional Director of Health Services, Dr. Samuel Boakye-Boateng.



Dr. Naa Korkor Allotey, Deputy Director of the Research Ethics Management Department at RDD, highlighted the division’s role in

strengthening research for policy development. She added that RDD is responsible for building research capacity, mobilizing resources, and organizing an annual dissemination forum.



Director of NHRC, Dr. Patrick Ansah, and Director of DHRC, Dr. Frank Atuguba, delivered presentations reviewing progress and achievements over the past year, ongoing projects, and areas for improvement.

The meeting was under the theme “The Role of Health Research in UHC Through Network of Practice.” This meeting sought to address pressing challenges in the research landscape, foster knowledge sharing, and set a roadmap for future interventions. Discussions covered the importance of research visibility, with calls for enhanced dissemination of findings through publications, media engagement, and social media. Participants also explored strategies to ensure that research findings influence national health policies and improve healthcare delivery in Ghana.



**KHRC PUBLISHES 2024 ANNUAL
REPORT**



The Kintampo Health Research Centre (KHRC) is pleased to announce the publication of its 2024 Annual Report, now available on our website. This report highlights our key achievements, research contributions, and institutional progress over the past year. In 2024, KHRC continued to advance impactful health research, contributing to evidence-based policies and improved healthcare delivery. The report provides insights into our major studies, partnerships, and showcasing our commitment to improving public health in Ghana and beyond.

We invite you to read the report to learn more about KHRC's work and our vision for

the future. Read the full report here:

<https://www.kintampo-hrc.org/document/KHRC%20Annual%20Report%202024.pdf>

**CLEAR PROGRAMME LAUNCHES
CLIMATE & HEALTH RESEARCH
WEBINAR SERIES**



The Climate and Health Evaluation for Adoptive Resilience (CLEAR) Programme is set to host an insightful webinar series on Climate and Health Research. The series will bring together experts to discuss the intersection of climate change and public health.

Organized by the Kintampo Health Research Centre in partnership with the Navrongo Health Research Centre (NHRC, Ghana), Dodowa Health Research Centre (DHRC, Ghana), Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST, Ghana), Columbia University (CU, USA), the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (ISMMS, USA), Montana State University (MSU, USA), and the West Africa Centre for Climate and Health Innovation and Resilience (WACCHIR), this session will focus on heat and humidity assessments and their impact on health outcomes in Ghana. The CLEAR Programme is funded by the Wellcome Trust, UK.

WEBINAR DETAILS**THURSDAY, 20 MARCH 2025****14:00 - 15:00 GMT****PRESENTATIONS**

- Ghana Randomized Air Pollution and Health Study (GRAPHS): Design & Methodologies – **Dr. Kaali Seyram, KHRC**
- Prenatal exposure to heat and humidity and infant birth size in Ghana – **Dr. Alison Lee, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.**
- Overview of CLEAR Programme – **Mr. Japhet Anim, KHRC**

The discussion will be moderated by Prof. Kwaku Poku Asante, Director of KHRC.

This webinar is essential for researchers, health professionals, policymakers, and climate change advocates who want to understand climate-related health risks and innovative exposure assessment approaches.

[Click to Register](#)

Don't miss this opportunity to engage with leading experts in the field of climate and health!

Learn more about the CLEAR Programme:
<https://www.kintampo-hrc.org/pages/Wellcome-trust-project.html>

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