

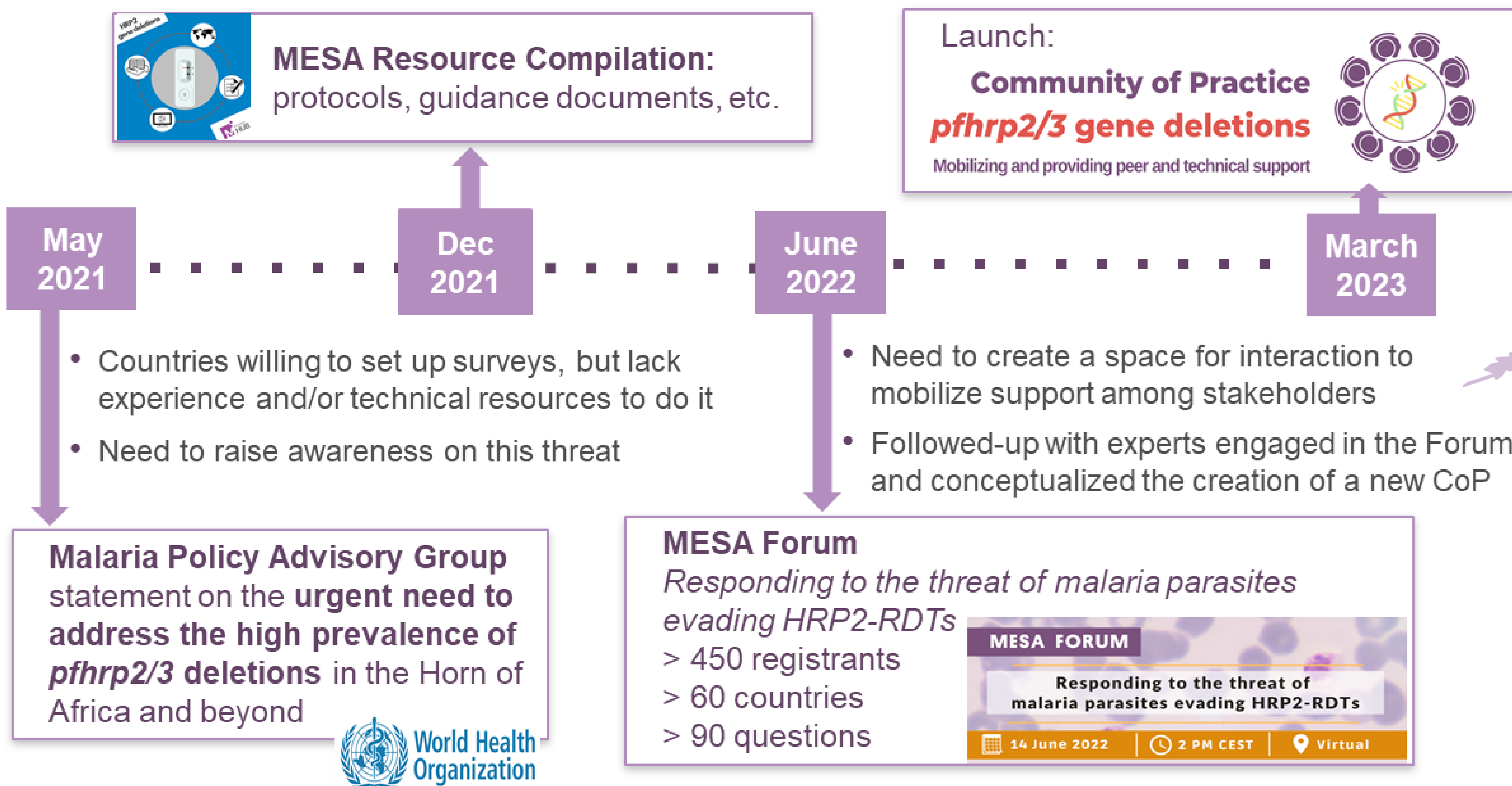
Establishing a dynamic Community of Practice (CoP) to respond to the threat of *pfhrp2/3* gene deletions

Elisa Serra-Casas¹, Sònia Tomàs-Falcó¹, Nana Aba Williams¹, Deus S. Ishengoma^{2,3,4,5}

¹ MESA, hosted by Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal), Hospital Clínic, University of Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain; ² National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; ³ Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia; ⁴ Harvard T.H Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University, Boston, MA, USA; ⁵ Department of Biochemistry, Kampala International University, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

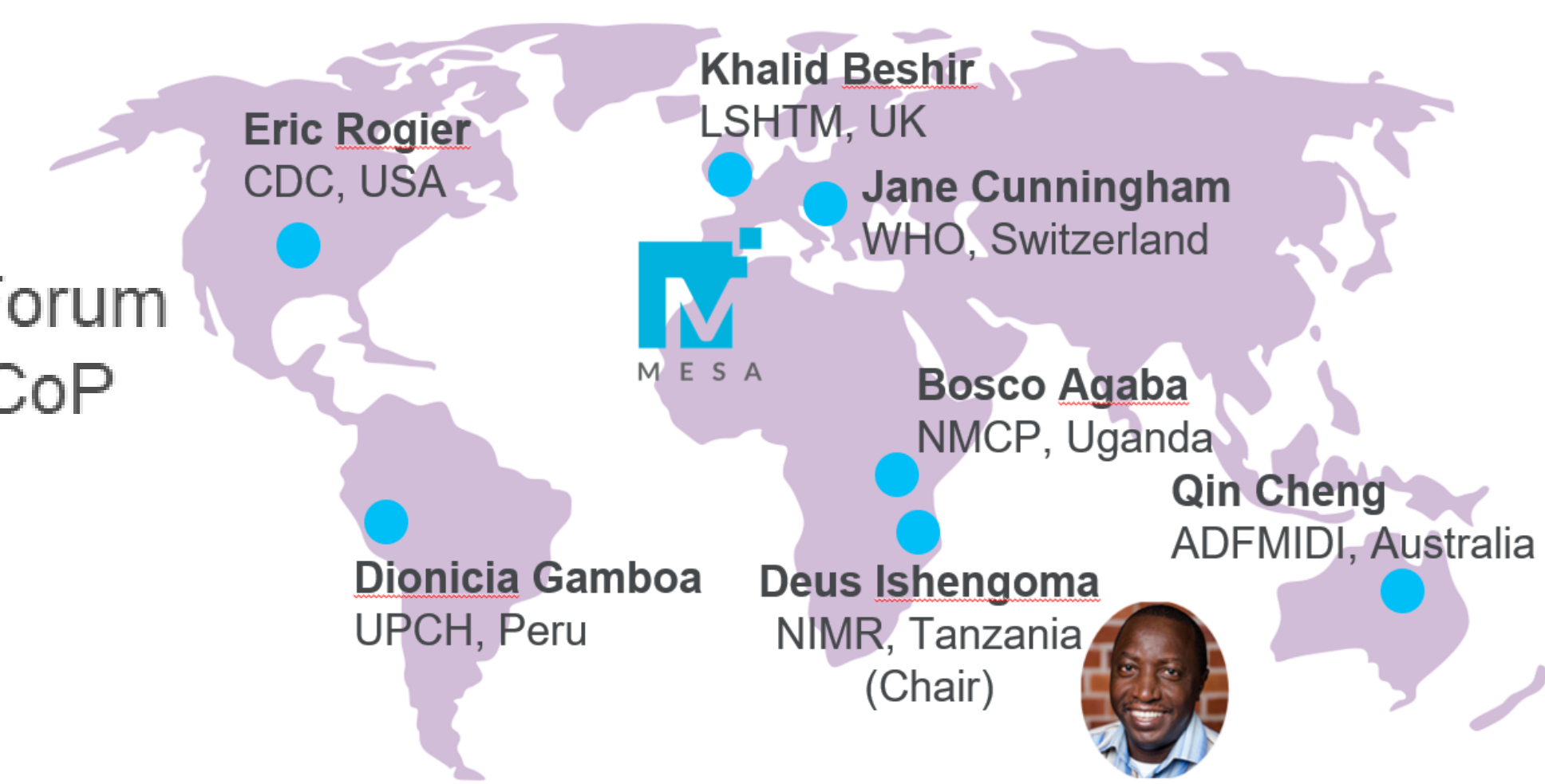
BACKGROUND

- Malaria **rapid diagnostic tests** (RDTs) play a pivotal role in malaria control, particularly those targeting *Plasmodium falciparum*'s Histidine-Rich Protein 2 (HRP2).
- The emergence of parasites with **deleted *pfhrp2/3* genes** poses a serious threat to accurate diagnosis.



OBJECTIVE

The objective of the CoP is to mobilize and provide peer and technical support among **National Malaria Programs, researchers and partners** in implementing surveys for the detection and monitoring of *pfhrp2/3* gene deletions.



**Experts that contributed to the inception of the CoP

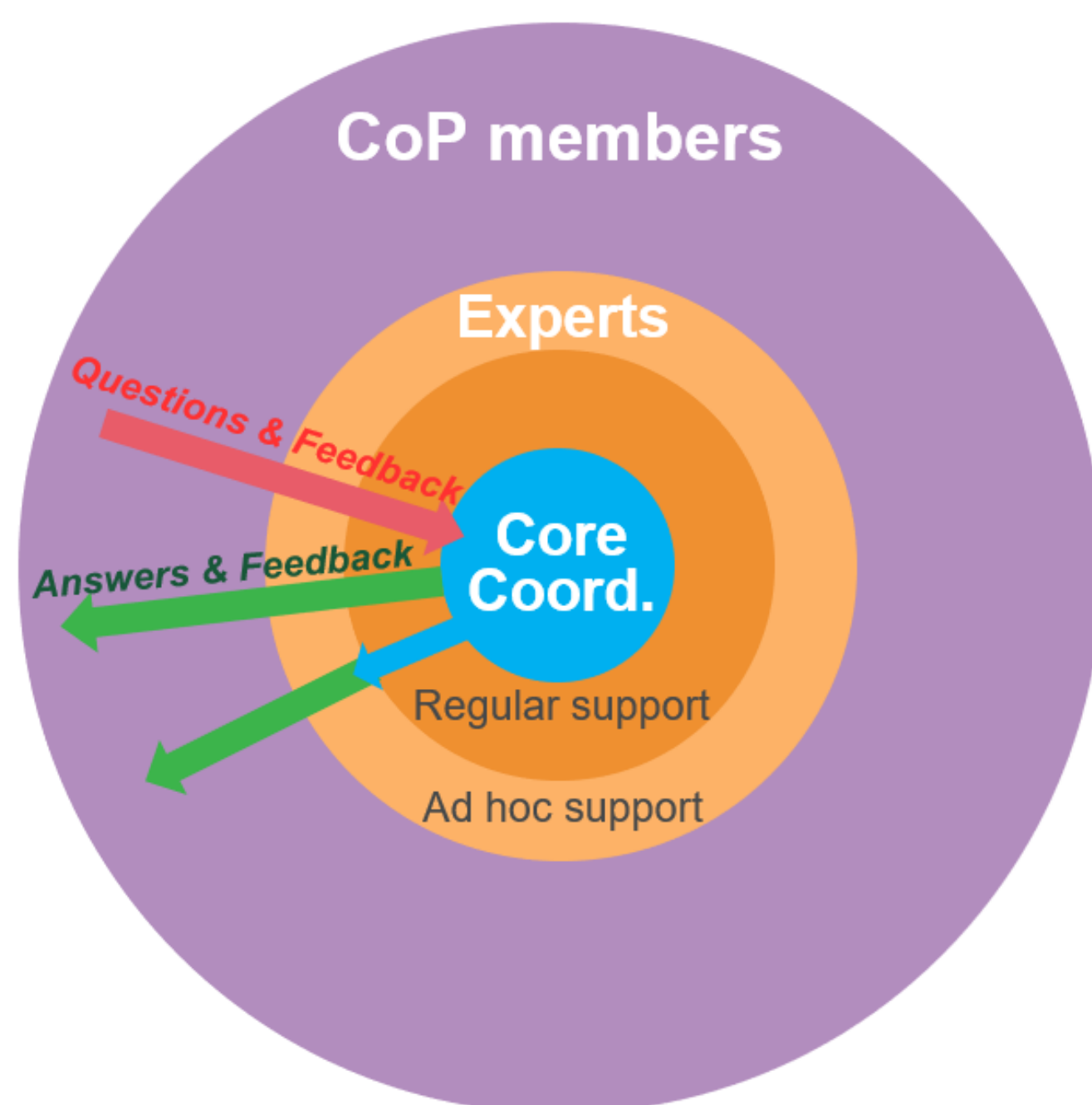
METHODOLOGY

Community building:

- Reached out to previous registrants of MESA events
- Targeted invitations to experts and National Malaria Programs
- Social media outreach

Organizational structure:

- Coordinated by **MESA**
- **Chair:** Deus S. Ishengoma (experienced in nationwide surveys)
- **Core Group:** Provides advice and support through regular meetings
- **Pool of experts:** Provide support on ad hoc basis



Membership:

- Open to all interested individuals, through online registration

RESULTS

271 members
58 countries

- Academia / Research institutions
- Ministries of Health / Malaria Programs
- International organizations / NGOs
- Private sector



- Gather **Queries/Concerns** through registration form, email, surveys
- 2 "**Q&A**" sheets developed with expert collaboration (>45 queries)



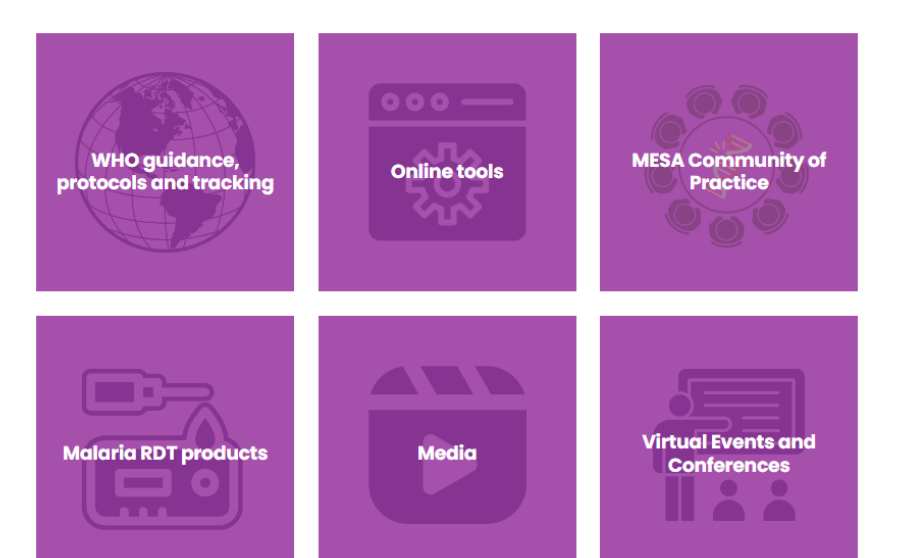
Knowledge sharing events:

- **Virtual MESA Forum** (June 2023): introduction of the CoP, sharing of lessons learned and resources.
- **In-person meeting** (October 2023, ASTMH Conf.): updates on WHO guidance and engaging with RDT manufacturers.
- **In-person workshop** (April 2024, MIM Conf.): practical demonstration of *Pfhrp2/3* planner online tool.



Communication and access to resources:

- Newsletters to CoP members with **updates** and **relevant news**.
- Comprehensive and updated resource **Collection** available on MESA website.



CONCLUSIONS

- The CoP has garnered a **responsive community**, receiving positive feedback that underscores its capacity to bring together individuals with **diverse backgrounds** yet a common goal.
- Future plans include enhancing **interaction**, organizing **thematic events** for in-depth discussions and sharing existing **study protocols**.
- This **dynamic platform** effectively addresses challenges associated with *pfhrp2/3* gene deletions.

