

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



May

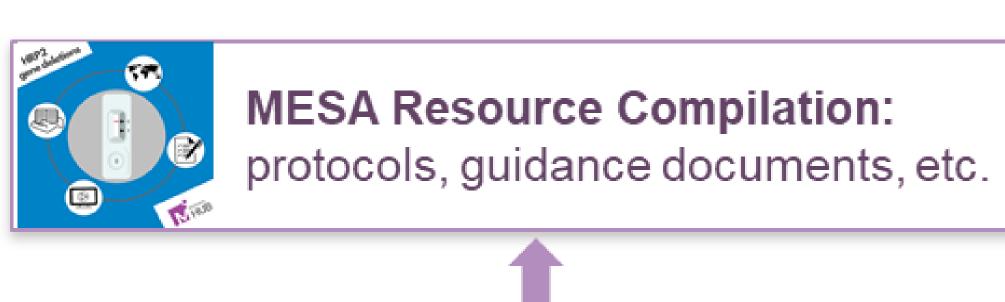
2021

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.



Dec 2021

June 2022

Launch: **Community of Practice** pfhrp2/3 gene deletions Mobilizing and providing peer and technical support

> March 2023

- Countries willing to set up surveys, but lack experience and/or technical resources to do it
- Need to raise awareness on this threat

Malaria Policy Advisory Group statement on the **urgent need to** address the high prevalence of pfhrp2/3 deletions in the Horn of

Africa and beyond World Health Organization

MESA Forum

Responding to the threat of malaria parasites evading HRP2-RDTs

- > 450 registrants
- > 60 countries
- > 90 questions



and conceptualized the creation of a new CoP

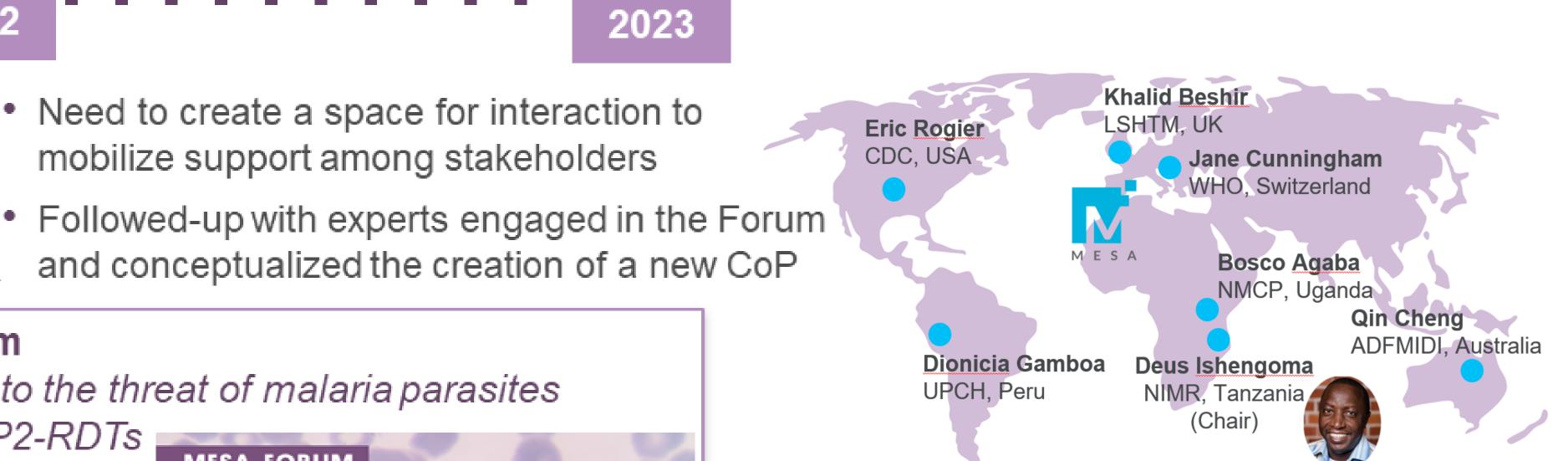
Need to create a space for interaction to

mobilize support among stakeholders

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

CoP members **Experts** Core Answers & Feedback Coord. Regular support Ad hoc support

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)



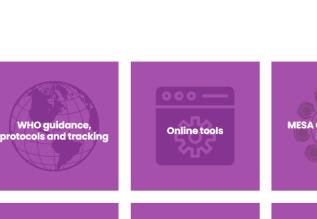
Knowledge sharing events:

- 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.









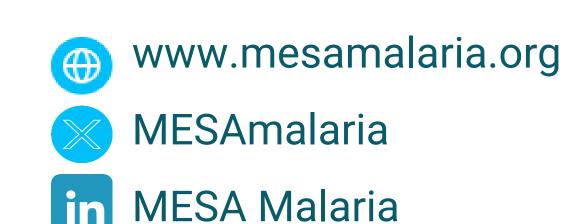




CONCLUSIONS

- 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.





MESA is hosted by:



C/ Rosselló 171, 08036 Barcelona, Spain

and supported by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Visit the CoP webpage

