DEVELOPING VACCINES FOR LOW RESOURCE SETTINGS THROUGH PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS (PDPs)

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Development of new vaccines for low resources settings is driven not only by the unmet medical need but also by addressing issues related to vaccine access, availability, affordability, acceptability and sustainability by the multitude of stakeholders involved in the research, development, introduction and scale-up of vaccines for low- and middle income countries (LMICs). The first gap that needs to be traversed is the valley of death between discovery and deployment (http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/453840a). Product Development Partnerships are one mechanism that has been successfully used to accelerate development of vaccines for LMICs. Two case studies will be reviewed: the meningitis A vaccine, MenAfriVac® and the malaria vaccine, Mosquirix®. A second valley of death has been identified in the development of the malaria vaccine (http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(16)30394-4). To traverse this second valley death, a different way of thinking about vaccine development may be required.