

# LEAP4WA

Lassa Fever Vaccine Efficacy  
and Prevention for West Africa



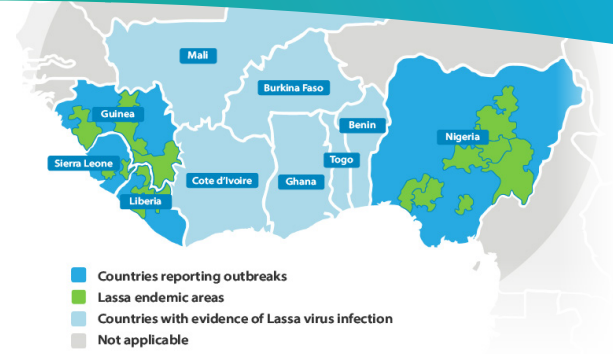
## OUR MISSION



Advancing an effective vaccine to prevent Lassa fever in West Africa through innovation and collaboration

LEAP4WA is a **unique multidisciplinary collaboration** of seven leading research institutions in **Africa, Europe, and North America** to advance **one of the most promising Lassa fever vaccine candidates to date**.

The consortium brings together decades of experience in **vaccine development, clinical trial management, and capacity strengthening**, embodying a comprehensive and collaborative approach that seeks **to deliver a safe, effective, and accessible Lassa fever vaccine to those who need it most**.



### Phase 2b pilot efficacy study



LEAP4WA will conduct a **Phase 2b pilot efficacy study** of IAVI's Lassa fever vaccine candidate among healthy adults, adolescents, and children in **Liberia, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone**. The trial is set to begin in **2026**.

### Innovative platform



The **rVSVΔG-LASV-GPC vaccine candidate** was developed using the innovative **recombinant VSV (rVSV) platform** — the same used for the Ebola Zaire vaccine, ERVEBO<sup>®</sup>, a highly efficacious vaccine licensed by Merck and now registered for use in eight African countries. rVSVΔG-LASV-GPC provided **high-level protection from Lassa fever in previously conducted preclinical animal studies**.

### State-of-the-art manufacturing



To accelerate production, LEAP4WA will leverage Batavia Biosciences's **state-of-the-art manufacturing platform, HIP-Vax<sup>®</sup>**, for highly intensified, modular vaccine production. This allows **significant miniaturization of the manufacturing facility** through which commercial manufacture at lab scale is possible.

### Ensuring access



The partners are united in their commitment to global equitable access to vaccines to ensure that the candidate vaccine is **accessible to all populations that need it**, should it be found safe and effective in clinical testing. If positive results are achieved, **a stockpile of a new Lassa fever vaccine could be in place before the end of the decade**.

### Capacity strengthening



Through strategic activities, LEAP4WA will **enhance in-country capacity of existing trial sites** in endemic countries for future clinical trials, **strengthen the north-south partnerships** among researchers, and **cultivate the next generation of scientific leadership** in the region, including through supporting **four Master's students**.

## What is Lassa fever?



Lassa fever is an acute viral hemorrhagic illness endemic to West Africa.



Lassa fever is zoonotic, transmitted to humans via contact with food or household items contaminated with rodent urine or faeces.

>300K

While the current disease burden is underestimated, there are an estimated 300,000 to 500,000 cases per year.

5,000

There are at least 5,000 deaths from Lassa fever annually, although this is likely underestimated.



One in five infections result in severe disease, where the virus affects several organs, such as the liver, spleen, and kidneys.



The World Health Organization has identified Lassa Virus in their R&D Blueprint list as one of the top emerging pathogens likely to cause severe outbreaks in the near future. It is also a potential bioterror threat.



With thanks to the generous support of our funders



This project is part of the EDCTP2 programme supported by the European Union (grant number RIA2019LV-3035).

