



The CUREMA team wishes you all the best for 2024!



## Newsletter nº2 - CUREMA

First quarter 2024

**Radical CURE for Malaria Among Highly Mobile and Hard-to-reach Populations in the Guyanese Shield (CUREMA)**

### Implementation of the study

Project activities were launched at all inclusion sites in Suriname before September 2023. We resumed malakit distribution in Suriname at the beginning of November, following a refresher training course for project facilitators. Malakit had been interrupted following a halt in the production of the former rapid tests, compelling us to update educational tools (video, illustrations) associated with the use of the new rapid tests, in a record time. In October 2023, the Curema project was also launched in Brazil. Facilitators benefited from a refresher course of the initial training. This session was combined with prompt recruitment and intensive training for three new facilitators.

#### Our team was ready!



The project was officially launched in Brazil on October 16. On the same date, we inaugurated the project clinic in Oiapoque, where inclusions will take place until the end of 2024. Just a few days later, the DPAC-Fiocruz team also launched mobile activities in different neighborhoods of Oiapoque.

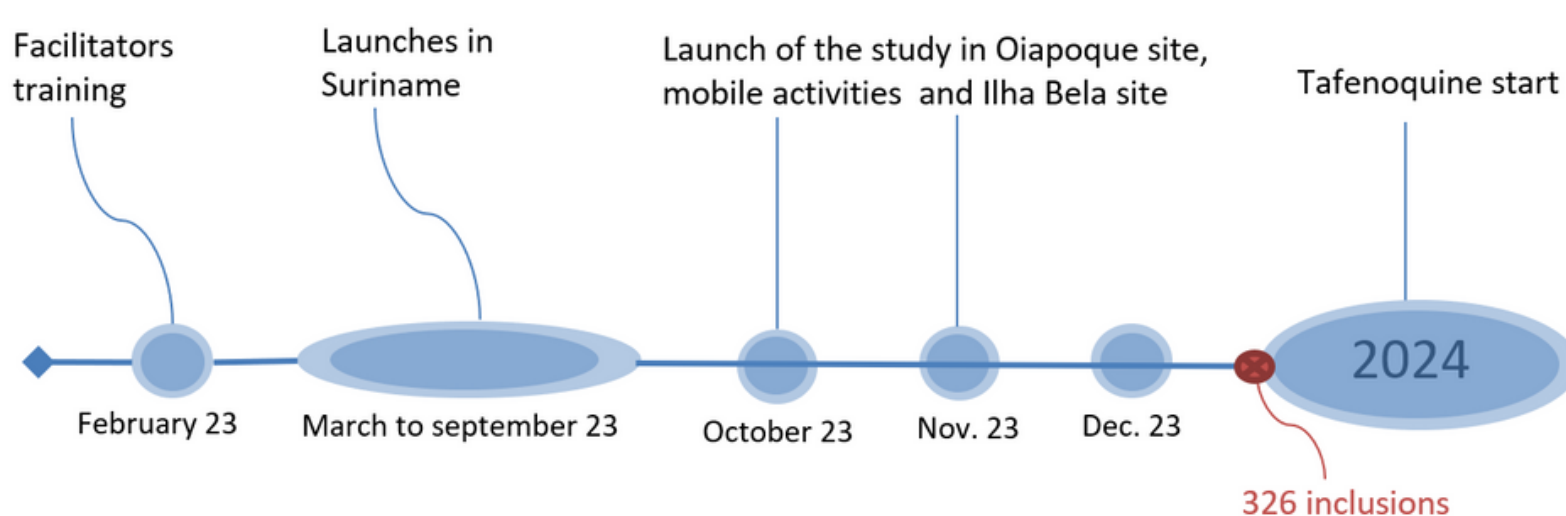
Thanks to the community experience of the facilitators, combined with exchanges with project participants, inclusions were launched in strategic locations in Oiapoque with participants who would not otherwise have been informed or would not have travelled to our base in the town.



During the week of November 21, we participated in the Ilha Bela Health Festival, an event organized by the DPAC association and health and social institutions of Oiapoque, with the support of the CUREMA project. This participatory event was designed to meet the health needs identified in this isolated and vulnerable community.

As part of this event, we were able to start project inclusions at our last planned inclusion site: Ilha Bela, located on the river Oiapoque about 6 hours by pirogue from the town of Oiapoque. The launch of the project in Ilha Bela was eagerly expected by the community.

### CUREMA project timeline



# Inclusions in the study

To date, 326 participants have been included in the study.  
A total of 203 malakits have been distributed. Of these, 93 were distributed in Suriname and 110 in Brazil. As a reminder, malakits were actually distributed by the two teams between mid-October and now.  
Among participants in the project, 128 have actually received radical treatment for *Plasmodium vivax* (21 in Brazil and 107 in Suriname).

The project's smarphone application, enabling participants to be followed-up and providing them with study videos and information, has been distributed to 95 participants.

## Data quality and regulatory aspects

Amendments were submitted and validated by the Brazilian and Surinamese ethics committees in July and August: this helped adapt the information documents to the field's reality, as well as elements of the protocol that needed revising.

The **study's first monitoring visit** took place in Paramaribo at the end of August 2023. The aim was to examine all the consent forms collected as part of the project in Suriname and centralized at the Paramaribo clinic.  
This task, carried out by the CHC sponsor unit, helped us adapt the recommendations for filling in the study documents and the key messages to be passed on to the facilitators and project supervisor.

In mid-October, the sponsor team visited Oiapoque for the **official launch of the project on the Brazilian territory**. This was an opportunity to discuss key implementation points by the entire team in order to comply with regulations of the three countries involved in the project. This setting up was also a good opportunity to share informal time between the Brazilian field team and the CHC sponsor unit.

Many thanks to the CHC sponsor unit for their support in the project!




## And then ? Achievements in 2023 have been considerable.


From the launch of the training program in Paramaribo in February 2023 to the implementation of the study in Ilha Bela, we went through many milestones and overcame as many challenges.

For the beginning of 2024, we hope to introduce tafenoquine as soon as possible in the project's radical cure module. Meeting the last administrative requirements to receive this drug seems within reach.

In the current context of resurgence of the epidemic, the goal of eliminating malaria from the Guiana Shield remains as relevant as ever. We hope to contribute to this goal in 2024 with the full deployment of the Curema project.



The [malakit-project.org](https://malakit-project.org) website is available in the three project languages (French, English and Portuguese). You can access it to find out more details about the project.  
Don't hesitate to suggest improvements if you think they're relevant!



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Thank you to all the teams working on the project at SWOS, Fiocruz, DPAC fronteira and the Cayenne Hospital, as well as the malaria programs in the three territories and the funding organizations that enable us to carry out CUREMA together!

