



Title: Assessing and Prioritizing Clinical Trial Sites for Phase 3 Lassa Fever Vaccine Trials in West Africa: A Regional Site Assessment Initiative
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Background

- Lassa fever (LF) is an increasing public health threat in West Africa.
- Effective vaccine development requires trial-ready, GCP-compliant infrastructure.
- The ARC-WA project (funded by CEPI) aims to identify, assess, and strengthen clinical trial sites in Lassa-endemic countries.
- This initiative is critical for Phase 3 LF vaccine trials and regional epidemic preparedness.

Objectives

- Assess trial site readiness for Phase 3 LF vaccine trials.
- Strengthen site capacity through standardized feasibility tools and stakeholder engagement.

Methods

- Desk Review: Identified potential sites from registries and networks.
- National Consultations: Refined site list with stakeholders.
- Site Assessments: Used standardized questionnaire + epidemiology module.
- Scoring: Sites scored across infrastructure, staffing, accessibility, experience, engagement.
- Validation: Results reviewed at a regional workshop; hub-and-spoke model applied.



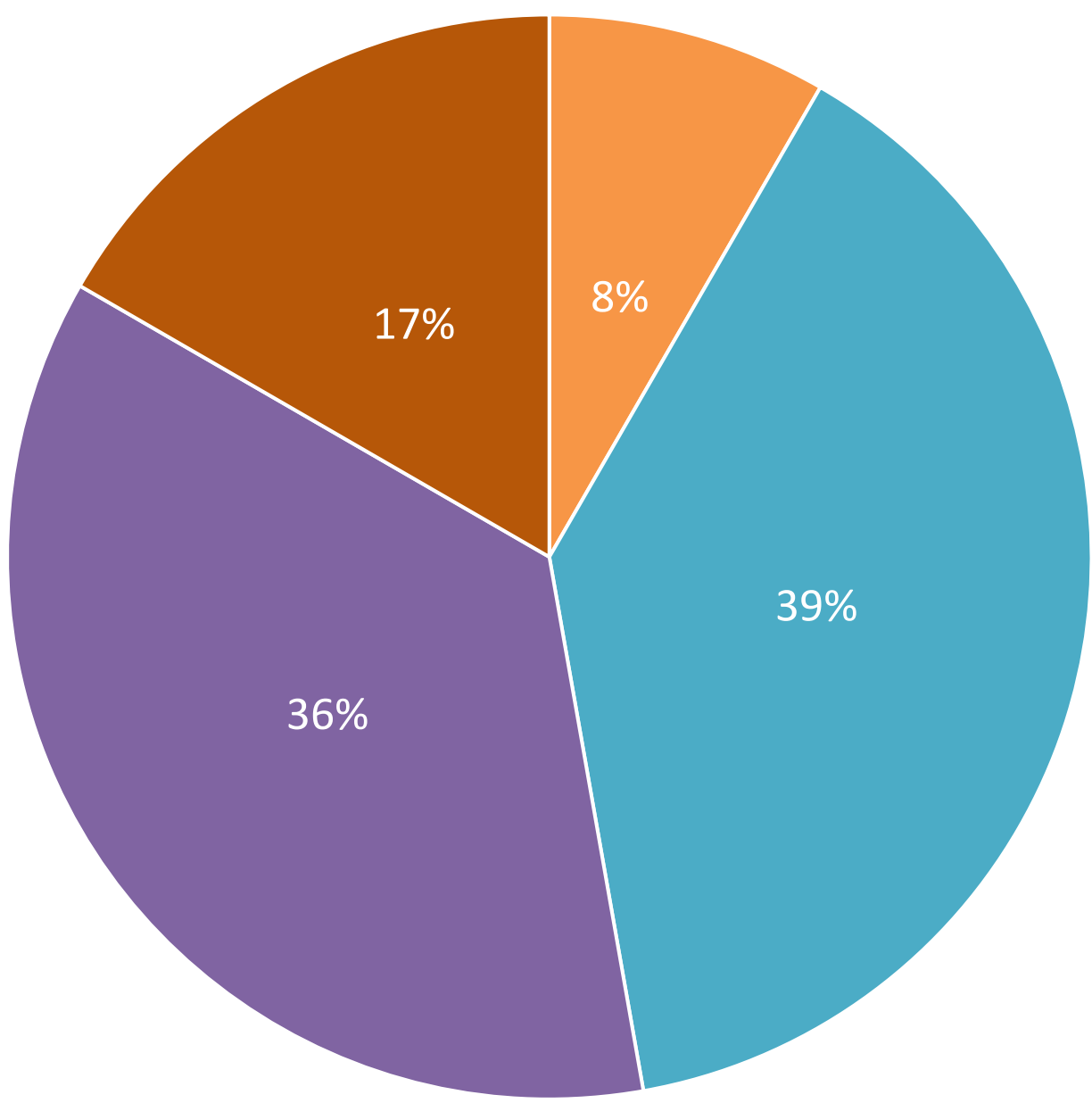
Photos of site assessments across West Africa (1 & 2) and the regional workshop (3) for validation and prioritization

Results

- 36 sites assessed (Sept 2024 – Feb 2025).
- Sites showed diverse capacities across countries.
- High-scoring sites = hubs.
- Sites in priority epidemiological zones but with capacity gaps = spokes.
- Gaps mainly in equipment, infrastructure, HR, and QMS.

Site Readiness for Clinical Trials: Score-Based Categorization (N=36)

- Excellent site for trials (4.0 - 5.0)
- Good site but may require improvements (3.0 - 3.9)
- Moderate site with significant gaps (2.0 - 2.9)
- Not recommended (<2.0)



Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

- ARC-WA produced an evidence-based prioritized list of sites for Phase 3 LF vaccine trials.
- The hub-and-spokes model ensures scalability, equity, and responsiveness.

Recommendations

- Invest in spoke sites: targeted capacity strengthening.
- Foster regional coordination and knowledge-sharing.
- Apply this framework for future epidemic vaccine trials.

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