

Engaging stakeholders on pathways to potential harms: the experience of a workshop series

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Abstract

Following the publication of the "Pathways to Harm" paper, Target Malaria hosted a series of conversations with experts on selected topics raised by the paper. The conversations were "forward looking", rather than focused on the validity of specific pathways.

During this series, participants had the opportunity to learn about the process that led to the paper and reflect on the next steps in the risk assessment (RA) process, including studies or activities that would support the project's further assessment of some of the hazards identified in the paper.

This process allowed the project to get feedback on the process itself, which would later inform how it sets up future "pathways to harm" exercises, and to receive contributions on how the project might set up studies and other activities in the next phase of the RA effort. The engagements enabled by this series also contributed to the broader effort to set out how RA for gene drive organisms can be done and offered others in the field a point of reference or example to draw on.

This series took place between April 2021 – May 2021.

Key words: gene drive, stakeholder engagement, risk assessment, mosquitoes