

1 **Country wide surveillance reveals prevalent artemisinin partial resistance mutations with**  
2 **evidence for multiple origins and expansion of high level sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine**  
3 **resistance mutations in northwest Tanzania.**

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29 **Abstract**

30 **Background:** Emergence of artemisinin partial resistance (ART-R) in *Plasmodium falciparum* is  
31 a growing threat to the efficacy of artemisinin combination therapies (ACT) and the efforts for  
32 malaria elimination. The emergence of *Plasmodium falciparum* Kelch13 (K13) R561H in  
33 Rwanda raised concern about the impact in neighboring Tanzania. In addition, regional concern  
34 over resistance affecting sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine (SP), which is used for chemoprevention  
35 strategies, is high.

36 **Methods:** To enhance longitudinal monitoring, the Molecular Surveillance of Malaria in  
37 Tanzania (MSMT) project was launched in 2020 with the goal of assessing and mapping  
38 antimalarial resistance. Community and clinic samples were assessed for resistance  
39 polymorphisms using a molecular inversion probe platform.

40 **Findings:** Genotyping of 6,278 samples collected countrywide in 2021 revealed a focus of K13  
41 561H mutants in northwestern Tanzania (Kagera) with prevalence of 7.7% (50/649). A small  
42 number of 561H mutants (about 1%) were found as far as 800 km away in Tabora, Manyara, and  
43 Njombe. Genomic analysis suggests some of these parasites are highly related to isolates  
44 collected in Rwanda in 2015, supporting regional spread of 561H. However, a novel haplotype  
45 was also observed, likely indicating a second origin in the region. Other validated resistance  
46 polymorphisms (622I and 675V) were also identified. A focus of high sulfadoxine-  
47 pyrimethamine drug resistance was also identified in Kagera with a prevalence of dihydrofolate  
48 reductase 164L of 15% (80/526).

49 **Interpretation:** These findings demonstrate the K13 561H mutation is entrenched in the region  
50 and that multiple origins of ART-R, similar as to what was seen in Southeast Asia, have  
51 occurred. Mutations associated with high levels of SP resistance are increasing. These results  
52 raise concerns about the long-term efficacy of artemisinin and chemoprevention antimalarials in  
53 the region.

54 **Funding:** This study was funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the National  
55 Institutes of Health.

56

## 57 **Research in Context**

### 58 **Evidence before this study**

59 We did a literature search via PubMed for research articles published from January 2014 to  
60 October 2023 using the search term “Africa” and “Artemisinin resistance” linked to “R561H” or  
61 “A675V” or “R622I”, returning 32 studies. The published literature shows the emergence and  
62 establishment of these three validated *Plasmodium falciparum* kelch13 (K13) mutations  
63 associated with artemisinin partial resistance (ART-R) in Africa. Large molecular studies of  
64 675V in Uganda and 622I in Ethiopia have defined the regional spread of these mutations.  
65 However, limited data is available from recent studies about the spread and origins of the 561H  
66 mutation in the Great Lakes region of East Africa. In particular, detailed studies of the regions of  
67 Tanzania that border Rwanda have not been carried out since the mutation was detected in  
68 Rwanda. These data are needed for malaria control programs to define and implement strategies  
69 for controlling the spread of ART-R in Africa, a potential global public health disaster and the  
70 potential obstacle to the ongoing elimination strategies.

### 71 **Added value of this study**

72 This analysis reports the first large-scale analysis of antimalarial resistance in Tanzania, with a  
73 focus on the regions bordering Rwanda since the 561H mutation reached high frequency in the  
74 area. Using 6,278 *P. falciparum* positive samples sequenced using molecular inversion probes  
75 (MIPs), we show that the mutation has become frequent in the districts of Kagera bordering  
76 Rwanda. Importantly, we provide evidence for the separate emergence of a different extended  
77 haplotype around 561H in Tanzania. This is the first evidence that multiple independent  
78 emergences of the 561H ART-R have occurred in Africa, as was seen within the last two decades  
79 in Southeast Asia.

### 80 **Implications of all the available evidence**

81 These findings highlight that, similar to 622I and 675V in other parts of Africa, we can expect  
82 the 561H mutation to continue to spread in the region. In addition, it highlights that we need to  
83 be watchful for new origins of mutations beyond the spread of existing resistant parasite  
84 lineages. ART-R appears to now be well established in multiple areas in Eastern Africa.  
85 Intensive control in these regions to prevent spread and monitoring for partner drug resistance

86 emergence in affected areas will be critical for preventing further reversal of malaria control  
87 efforts in the region and support progress to the elimination targets by 2023.

88

## 89 INTRODUCTION

90 Resistance to drugs used for treatment and prevention of malaria poses one of the greatest threats  
91 to global control and is of grave concern in Africa where the vast majority of cases and deaths  
92 occur.<sup>1</sup> Historically, the emergence and spread of chloroquine and sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine  
93 (SP) resistance resulted in the collapse of effective treatment of malaria with significant  
94 increases in morbidity and mortality.<sup>2</sup> Antimalarial combination therapies, consisting of an  
95 artemisinin derivative and a partner drug (artemisinin-based combination therapy - ACTs), are  
96 currently the predominant therapeutic options for treating uncomplicated falciparum malaria.  
97 Given gains in malaria control have already plateaued and are reversing in some countries, the  
98 emergence of artemisinin partial resistance (ART-R) in Africa could be a global public health  
99 disaster if partner drug resistance emerges in concert resulting in frank ACT failure.<sup>3</sup>

100

101 Over a decade has passed since the emergence of ART-R in SouthEast Asian *P. falciparum*  
102 populations, leading to decreased drug efficacy.<sup>4</sup> Clinical ART-R was first demonstrated in the  
103 late 2000s in studies conducted in Western Cambodia. The emergence of ART-R in Western  
104 Cambodia set the stage for the eventual failure of ACTs, as resistance to the partner drugs also  
105 emerged, indicated by increasing treatment failures, parasite clearance times and partner drug  
106 IC50s over a very short timeframe.<sup>3</sup> Early in the emergence of ACT resistance, many areas of  
107 SEA experienced more than 50% failure in patients treated with ACTs due to the combined  
108 effect of artemisinin and partner drug resistance.<sup>3</sup>

109

110 Mutations in *Plasmodium falciparum* Kelch13 (K13) (PF3D7\_1343700) are the key mediator of  
111 ART-R. These mutations were originally identified through drug pressure experiments and  
112 validated in the field and by genetic engineering studies.<sup>5</sup> They are thought to alter ubiquitination  
113 patterns and help parasites to resist accumulation of polyubiquitinated proteins.<sup>5</sup> A number of  
114 key mutations in K13 propeller domain are now validated markers of ART-R. Unfortunately,  
115 validated K13 mutations have now been found extensively in Eastern Africa, particularly in the  
116 Horn of Africa (R622I), Uganda (C469Y, A675V), Rwanda (R561H), and Tanzania (R561H).<sup>6-</sup>

117 <sup>10</sup>

118

119 The regional emergence and spread of these mutations appears to be developing as the norm  
120 rather than the exception. In the Horn of Africa, the validated 622I mutation was first reported in  
121 2014.<sup>11</sup> Since that time, these mutations have spread across Eritrea and Ethiopia.<sup>7,8</sup> In Uganda,  
122 longitudinal molecular surveillance at 16 sites has painted a clear picture of spread within  
123 Uganda of the 469Y and 675V variants.<sup>6</sup> It is important to note that all three of these mutations  
124 have been associated with prolonged parasite clearance, day 3 positivity by microscopy,  
125 increasing prevalence over time, and are in regions that now meet WHO criteria for ART-R.<sup>7,8</sup>

126

127 The emergence and spread of the 561H mutation in the Great Lakes Region of East Africa is not  
128 yet as clear when compared to other mutations. Originally described in Rwanda in samples from  
129 2014 and 2015, this mutation appears to have emerged within the country over the past  
130 decade.<sup>10,12</sup> In 2015, 7.4% of samples collected in Masaka harbored the 561H mutation.<sup>10</sup> By  
131 2018, 561H prevalence had increased to 19.6% in Masaka and 22% in Rukara during a  
132 therapeutic efficacy study.<sup>13</sup> In this study, 50% of isolates with delayed clearance (day 3 positive  
133 parasitemia) carried 561H. On this basis, Masaka met the WHO criteria for endemic ART-R as  
134 defined by >5% of patients carrying K13 resistance-confirmed mutation for which they had  
135 persistent parasitemia by microscopy on day 3.<sup>14</sup> Genome sequencing of isolates from 2015 also  
136 confirmed a single haplotype of 561H in Rwanda that was not of Asian origin, suggesting *de*  
137 *novo* mutation within Africa.<sup>10</sup>

138

139 Importantly, K13 mutations should never be studied in isolation as it requires partner drug  
140 resistance to lead to clinical failures of ACTs. Further, mutations to drugs no longer used for  
141 therapy, but that remain in use for chemoprevention (e.g. SP), are also important to characterize  
142 for malaria control programs. Molecular surveillance of antimalarial resistance should therefore  
143 rely on platforms that can broadly detect different resistance mutations. Highly multiplex  
144 amplicon deep sequencing is one approach that has shown promise. Another approach is  
145 molecular inversion probes (MIPs), which have now been used extensively to characterize drug  
146 resistance and population structure in parasites in Africa.<sup>8,9,15</sup> The ability to create and combine

147 different highly multiplexed panels for antimalarial resistance mutations, copy number variation,  
148 gene deletions and other genome wide polymorphisms to study complexity of infection, parasite  
149 relatedness or population structure makes the MIP platform a highly flexible and cost-effective  
150 means of conducting malaria molecular surveillance (MMS).

151

152 The Molecular Surveillance of Malaria in Tanzania (MSMT) project was developed to provide  
153 nationwide longitudinal surveillance of parasite populations to understand key aspects of parasite  
154 biology that may impact malaria control and interventions.<sup>16</sup> The emergence of 561H is a prime  
155 concern for Tanzania given its proximity to Rwanda and previous studies documenting isolated  
156 cases across the country, with two cases in the Chato district and one on the Eastern coast.<sup>9,17</sup>  
157 Here we describe the initial assessment of 6,278 successfully genotyped samples collected across  
158 7,782 malaria positive individuals in the first year of the project using high-throughput MIP  
159 analysis. The goal was to assess the status of antimalarial resistance in Tanzania, with a focus on  
160 the border with Rwanda, to understand the distribution of the 561H mutation, partner drug  
161 resistance and resistance to chemoprevention drugs. This was further supported by whole  
162 genome sequencing of specific isolates to understand flanking haplotypes and gain insight into  
163 the origins of 561H mutations in Tanzania.

## 164 MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 165 Study Design and Participants

166 We analyzed dried blood spot (DBS) samples from patients with a positive malaria rapid  
167 diagnostic test drawn from cross-sectional surveys that involved 100 health facilities in 10  
168 regions (n=7,148) and asymptomatic individuals in community studies (n=634) in three  
169 additional regions (**Figure 1**). Details of the study sites' selection and overall sampling have  
170 been provided elsewhere.<sup>16</sup> The three community surveys were conducted in regions of Tanzania  
171 which were involved in previous studies undertaken by the National Institute for Medical  
172 Research (NIMR).<sup>9,18</sup> Four regions (Kagera, Mara, Tabora, and Kigoma) were deemed high  
173 priority areas for antimalarial resistance surveillance due to their proximity to Rwanda and to  
174 their location in the Lake Zone of the country with higher transmission (**Figure 1**). Informed  
175 consent was obtained for each patient and de-identified DBS samples were processed at NIMR in  
176 Tanzania, Brown University, and University of North Carolina (USA) according to IRB  
177 requirements of the Tanzanian Medical Research Coordinating Committee (MRCC) of NIMR.

178

### 179 Molecular Inversion Probe Analysis

180 DNA was extracted from the DBS using a Chelex-Tween protocol and MIP captures and  
181 sequencing were conducted as previously described.<sup>15</sup> This study used a panel specific for drug  
182 resistance polymorphism detection and a panel to look at genomic diversity.<sup>15</sup> Approximately  
183 two to three thousand samples were run together on each NextSeq 500 run, and sample libraries  
184 lacking sufficient read depth were rebalanced and resequenced. For samples from the high  
185 priority regions (**Figure 1**), an additional MIP capture and high-depth sequencing was  
186 conducted. Resulting data was analyzed using MIPTools software with freebayes variant  
187 calling (<https://github.com/bailey-lab/MIPTools>).<sup>15</sup> Controls for each MIP capture and  
188 sequencing included DNA from 3D7 and 7G8 as well as no template and no probe controls.

189 Variant calling was conducted as previously described.<sup>15</sup> We kept samples that had at least one  
190 haplotype that mapped in the expected locations of the genome for any of our drug resistance  
191 MIPs. Antimalarial resistance prevalence was calculated for all variants with a UMI count of 3 or  
192 greater and if heterozygous with the alternate allele having 1 UMI or greater using a Python



193 script and maps were created using the sf package. Analysis of haplotypes involves only samples  
194 where complete genotypes across the involved loci are available. Inheritance by descent (IBD)  
195 analysis of parasite relatedness among ART-R parasitemias was done as previously described.<sup>8</sup>

196

## 197 **Whole Genome Sequencing**

198 Whole genome sequencing of selective whole genome amplification (sWGA) products was  
199 attempted for 23 pure 561H, 5 mixed R561H, and 45 wildtype parasite infections based on MIP  
200 genotyping. sWGA was performed in triplicate for each sample using a previously published  
201 protocol and pooled.<sup>19</sup> The pooled sWGA product was sheared using a LE220R-plus Covaris  
202 Sonicator and libraries prepared using dual indexing with the Kappa Hyper Prep Kit (Roche,  
203 Indianapolis, IN). Pooled libraries were sequenced on a NovaSeq6000 using 2 x 150 bp  
204 chemistry at the University of North Carolina (UNC) High Throughput Sequencing Facility. We  
205 also downloaded publicly available WGS data (n=25) from *P. falciparum* isolates collected in  
206 2014/15 in Rwanda.<sup>10</sup>

207

208 Whole genome sequencing data was analyzed using GATK4 following previously published  
209 methods ([https://github.com/Karaniare/Optimized\\_GATK4\\_pipeline](https://github.com/Karaniare/Optimized_GATK4_pipeline)).<sup>20</sup> Briefly, reads were  
210 mapped to the 3D7 reference genome using bwa mem, variants were called using GATK4 and  
211 SNPs and indels were filtered using variant quality score recalibration. SNPs and indels passing  
212 filters were visualized in R 4.2.1 using the gt package. In order to detect patterns of selection  
213 signals between Southeast Asian (SEA), Rwanda and Tanzania haplotypes, we did extended-  
214 haplotype homozygosity (EHH) statistics focusing 561H drug resistance SNP using filtered  
215 biallelic SNPs and with low missingness data from a VCF file. All associated EHH calculations  
216 were carried out using the R-package rehh (version 2.0.4). Rwanda and SEA data was  
217 downloaded from Pf7K.

## 218 RESULTS

219 We successfully genotyped 6,278 of the 7,782 (80.7%) samples attempted (**Figure 1B**).  
220 Sequencing across the K13 gene revealed three WHO validated ART-R mutations, 561H, 622I,  
221 and 675V. The 561H mutations were predominantly found in Kagera, the northwest most region  
222 bordering Rwanda and Uganda. (**Figure 2A, Table 1**). The overall prevalence in Kagera was  
223 7.7% (50/649) and most of these mutant parasites were found in the west near the Rwandan  
224 border in the districts of Karagwe at 22.8% (31/136), Kyerwa at 14.4% (17/118) and pfdhfr  
225 and pfdhps mutations were common in the area studied (Table 2). Notably, we identified Ngara,  
226 at 1.4% (2/144) (**Figure 2B**). Beyond Kagera, parasites with the 561H mutation were also  
227 detected at lower prevalence in three other regions, including Tabora at 0.5% (2/438), Manyara  
228 at 0.5% (1/179), and Njombe at 0.4% (1/279), as far as 800 km from the Rwanda border. The  
229 K13 622I mutation was found in a single isolate from Njombe in Southwestern Tanzania (**Table**  
230 **1**). The 675V mutation was found in one isolate from Kagera and one isolate from Tabora. Other  
231 K13 propeller domain mutations not known to be associated with drug resistance were detected  
232 sporadically (**Table S1**). Outside the K13 propeller domain, we found several polymorphisms  
233 including 189T in 18.3% (397/2,168) of samples country-wide (**Table S1**). Other mutations have  
234 putatively been associated with partial artemisinin resistance outside of K13, including  
235 *Plasmodium falciparum* ATPase 6 (ATPase6) and *P. falciparum* AP-2mu (AP2mu) (**Table S1**).  
236 The ATPase6 623E mutation was found in four Kagera isolates and seven Mara isolates (0.6%  
237 and 2.3%, respectively), and none of these isolates contained parasites with mutations at K13  
238 561H. *P. falciparum* coronin was not genotyped.

239

240 Extended haplotypes around antimalarial genes have been used to study the origin and spread of  
241 mutations.<sup>10</sup> With positive directional selection of resistance by drug pressure, large genomic  
242 sections are spread in the population, a selective sweep, which are eventually broken down  
243 through recombination. We achieved sufficient depth and quality on 29 of 63 Tanzanian isolates  
244 from 2021 to assess the variation surrounding K13 and used publicly available WGS data from  
245 the isolates collected in 2014/15 in Rwanda.<sup>10</sup> We identify a shared haplotype between the older  
246 Rwandan isolates and the contemporary Tanzanian isolates (n=4 from Tanzania; haplotype  
247 RW/TZ1), suggesting cross-border spread resulting from a single origin event. However, a

248 second extended haplotype (n=5; TZ2) is also seen within the Tanzanian parasites (**Figure 3**).  
249 RW/TZ1 and TZ2 differ at the closest flanking single nucleotide polymorphisms (within 1kb of  
250 the 561H mutation). The TZ2 haplotype also does not appear to be of SEA origin (**Figure S1**).  
251 Extended haplotype homozygosity analysis (EHH) shows extended haplotypes for RW/TZ1 and  
252 TZ2 relative to wild type parasites, consistent with positive selection for both 561H haplotypes  
253 (**Figure 4**). IBD analysis showed that 561H isolates from Kagera were closely related in multiple  
254 small clusters (**Figure S2**). Of the more distant isolates, the two from Tabora were related to  
255 Kagera isolates ( $IBD \geq 0.25$ ), with the other two being more distant (**Figure S3**).

256

257 To investigate associations with mutations previously found to occur in drug resistant parasites  
258 in Southeast Asia in combination with K13 mutations, we used the MIP panel genotypes and  
259 quantified mutations occurring in the same isolates. None of *P. falciparum* chloroquine  
260 resistance transporter (CRT) 326S, CRT 356T, *P. multidrug* resistance protein 2 (MDR2) 484I,  
261 *Plasmodium falciparum* Protein phosphatase (PPH) 1157L, or putative phosphoinositide-binding  
262 protein (PIB7) 1484F were associated with K13 561H mutant isolates. However, ferredoxin (FD)  
263 193Y polymorphisms were found in 13 K13 561H mutant isolates in Kagera (**Table S1**). Known  
264 partner drug resistance mutations were also assessed (**Table 1**). In Kagera, 39 samples (39/586)  
265 had mutations at CRT 76T, and 31 of these isolates were from Ngara bordering Rwanda and  
266 Burundi (ASAQ is the most widely used ACT in Burundi). The multidrug resistance transporter  
267 1 (MDR1) N86 allele associated with lumefantrine resistance was found in 99.9% of samples  
268 (3828/3830). The MDR1 NFD haplotype (N86, 184F, D1246) was found in 52.6% of samples  
269 (1420/2698).

270

271 Markers for SP resistance were also genotyped, revealing high frequency of many mutations and  
272 the emergence of dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR) 164L in Kagera (**Table 1, Figure 2C**). The  
273 folate synthesis gene triple mutations DHFR 51I, 59R and 108N were found to be near fixation  
274 with the IRN haplotype at 92.5% (2,893/3,128). Notably, the DHFR 164L mutation was found at  
275 15.2% (80/526) in Kagera region, accounting for 80% of the IRNL haplotypes found in the  
276 country (100/2,524 nationally) (**Figure 2C**). In the dihydropteroate synthase (DHPS) gene, two  
277 markers for elevated SP resistance were found to be above WHO guideline thresholds in some

278 regions. DHPS 540E was found at 93.06% (3,485/3,745) in Tanzania with little geographic  
279 variation (**Table 1**), while DHPS 581G prevalence ranged from 0.4% (1/239) in Mtwara to  
280 38.5% (25/65) in Tanga (**Figure 2D**).

281

## 282 DISCUSSION

283 Drug resistance in malaria parasites has emerged multiple times to every frontline antimalarial,  
284 each time with severe consequences for affected populations.<sup>21</sup> The emerging threat of ART-R in  
285 Africa has the potential to be a global public health disaster. Thus, understanding the emergence  
286 and spread of these mutations is critical in making plans to contain this threat. While it is clear  
287 that K13 622I and 675V are spreading in the Horn of Africa and Uganda, respectively, the  
288 pattern of origin and spread of the 561H mutation have not been fully defined. Here we  
289 demonstrate that the mutation has risen to high frequencies in Kagera (7.7%), a region bordering  
290 Rwanda, which had little evidence of resistance in a 2017 study that used MIPs to genotype  
291 samples from Kagera in a national schoolkids survey (data not published). This trend would be  
292 consistent with outward spread from the Rwanda-Tanzania border, and also supports the idea  
293 that there has been and will continue to be regional spread of the mutation, especially given the  
294 shared extended haplotype around some of the Tanzanian isolates and the older reported  
295 Rwandan isolates. More concerning is the evidence of a potential unique origin of the 561H  
296 mutation in the region, suggesting that ART-R may follow patterns similar to those seen in  
297 Southeast Asia with multiple independent origins of the same mutation.<sup>22</sup> Haplotype analysis  
298 suggests multiple origins, but does not prove the mechanism behind them.<sup>6</sup> If multiple origins  
299 occur, containment efforts are more difficult, due to the need to closely monitor for new  
300 haplotypes and the spread of specific haplotypes, which may not become extensive without  
301 partner drug resistance. However, the presence of multiple haplotypes may be due to gene  
302 conversion or recombination events adjacent to the mutation.

303

304 Several mutations in the K13 propeller domain that are now associated with delayed parasite  
305 clearance are present in East Africa.<sup>6-8</sup> The most concerning of these, 469Y, 561H, 622I and  
306 675V, have shown clinical and *in vitro* validation of ART-R. Determining the exact origin of  
307 these mutations with certainty is difficult due to the patchy nature of the surveillance data, but  
308 one (561H) of the three appears to have originated on the Rwanda-Tanzania border. 561H was  
309 first detected in Rwanda in 2015 as part of therapeutic efficacy studies and later in DRC and  
310 Tanzania.<sup>9,10</sup> To date, genotyping efforts to describe the status of K13 mutations in Tanzania  
311 have been limited and do not capture the risk posed by ART-R parasites across the country. The

312 high rate of human movement across the border with Rwanda, where people have close historical  
313 ties and One Stop Border Posts (OSPB) that routinely permit thousands of individuals and  
314 hundreds of vehicles to cross daily, makes this a primary concern for malaria control in  
315 Tanzania.<sup>23</sup> While there have been sporadic reports of validated ART-R polymorphisms in the  
316 past, systematic longitudinal surveillance of these mutations is necessary to identify areas at risk,  
317 as has been done in Uganda.<sup>6,9,17</sup> The speed at which data is generated and reported to control  
318 programs is critical. The MSMT project will provide these nationwide data for Tanzania given  
319 the identified threat shown here of 561H in Kagera, by allowing yearly sampling and in-country  
320 sequencing and analysis of data as the project develops.

321  
322 Partner drug resistance surveillance showed important patterns. An intriguing pattern of CRT  
323 76T mutations was found to be clustered near the Burundi border. A possible explanation is that  
324 the use of ASAQ in Burundi is contributing to continued selection for chloroquine resistance and  
325 that these resistant parasites are being imported into Kagera. Given artemether-lumefantrine  
326 remains the first line antimalarial in Tanzania, it is not surprising that MDR1 N86 was near  
327 fixation and the NFD haplotype was very common, occurring in over 50% of samples.

328  
329 Markers of elevated SP resistance are increasing in Tanzania, which has potential impacts on the  
330 use of SP as a chemopreventive antimalarial. The geographic distribution of the DHPS 581G  
331 mutations in Tanzania has historically been limited to Tanga and the Lake districts.<sup>24,25</sup> We  
332 confirm that this remains the case with little evidence of expansion into other regions of  
333 Tanzania. The reasons for the lack of spread of this mutation in Tanzania remains unclear and  
334 warrants further evaluation, especially given the evidence that spread is occurring in the  
335 neighboring Democratic Republic of the Congo.<sup>26</sup> Previous work has suggested that multiple  
336 origins of parasites bearing 581G have occurred in East Africa, suggesting local origins and  
337 limited spread.<sup>27</sup> However, that work was based on five microsatellites and may not take into  
338 account the complex stepwise evolutionary history of mutations in DHPS. Importantly, a new  
339 focus of the quadruple mutation in DHFR (51I, 59R, 108N, 164L) was identified in Kagera. In  
340 the laboratory, this form of the enzyme binds pyrimethamine 600 times less tightly than the wild  
341 type and about seven times less than the triple mutation (51I, 59R, 108N).<sup>28</sup> This results in

342 parasites being resistant to therapy *in vitro* at levels higher than what can be reached *in vivo*. The  
343 DHFR/DHPS sextuple mutation (DHFR 51I, 59R, 108N / DHPS 437G, 540E, 581G), has been  
344 associated with the compromise of intermittent preventive treatment in pregnancy (IPTp) and  
345 was found in 11.2% (323/2,894) of samples nationally.<sup>29</sup> Given the regional high prevalence of  
346 DHPS 581G and the emergence of DHFR 164L in Northwest Tanzania, additional studies are  
347 warranted to evaluate the benefits of SP based chemoprevention in this region of Tanzania.

348

349 A major advantage of this study is the large geographic range and large number of samples  
350 available for analysis. However, this study design also engenders some limitations. The large  
351 number of samples resulted in overall low levels of coverage for the sequencing for most regions  
352 (other than the four high priority regions that received extra depth). The samples collected at the  
353 three cross-sectional sites performed poorly with our approach, likely due to low parasitemia.  
354 The overall coverage in many regions may directly affect the ability to find minority drug  
355 resistant variants in the data and we may have filtered out minor variants below 1%.

356

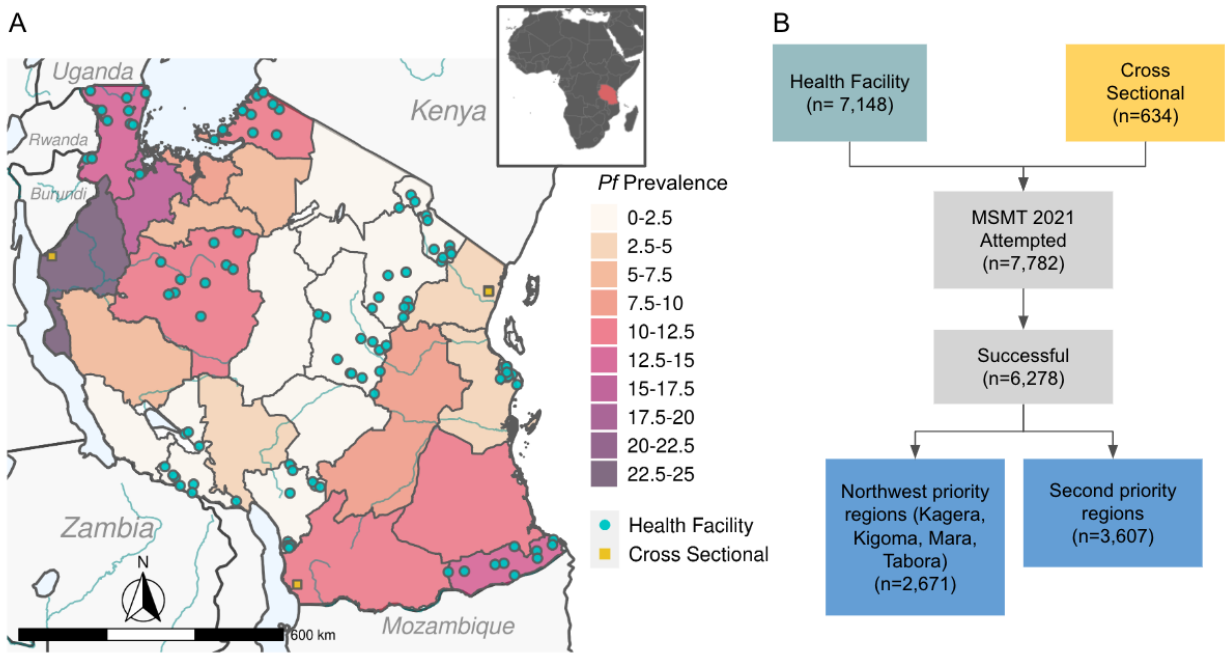
357 The detection of K13 561H at prevalence above 22% in Karagwe district of Kagera, Tanzania,  
358 must raise alarms that ART-R is emerging and that ACTs efficacy is under threat. The  
359 independent origin of a new K13 561H extended haplotype raises concern that multiple origins  
360 of ART-R mutations will occur in Africa, complicating control. Evolution of partner drug  
361 resistance must be monitored carefully and therapeutic efficacy studies are urgently needed to  
362 understand the susceptibility of currently circulating K13 mutations in the region.

364 Table 1. Prevalence of antimalarial resistance mutations by region. Prevalence reflects the alternate allele.

Region	DHFR N51I	DHFR C59R	DHFR S108N	DHFR I164L	DHPS A437G	DHPS K540E	DHPS A581G	K13 A675V	K13 R561H	K13 R622I	MDR1 N86F	MDR1 N86Y	MDR1 Y184F	MDR1 D1246Y	CRT K76T
Kagera	0.987 (681/690)	0.913 (630/690)	1.0 (632/632)	0.1521 (80/526)	0.9408 (651/692)	0.9383 (654/697)	0.2593 (189/729)	0.0015 (1/680)	0.077 (50/649)	0.0 (0/709)	0.0 (0/223)	0.0 (0/223)	0.4936 (115/233)	0.0087 (1/115)	0.0164 (2/122)
Mara	0.988 (574/581)	0.926 (538/581)	0.9947 (563/566)	0.0305 (17/558)	0.9701 (551/568)	0.9724 (563/579)	0.0085 (5/590)	0.0 (0/585)	0.0 (0/535)	0.0 (0/578)	0.0 (0/75)	0.0 (0/75)	0.337 (31/92)	0.0404 (4/99)	0.1395 (12/86)
Dodoma	0.9787 (184/188)	0.9149 (172/188)	1.0 (145/145)	0.01 (1/100)	0.9509 (155/163)	0.9369 (193/206)	0.0543 (12/221)	0.0 (0/182)	0.0 (0/158)	0.0 (0/188)	0.0 (0/521)	0.0019 (1/521)	0.5204 (280/538)	0.0511 (21/411)	0.0052 (2/381)
Ruvuma	1.0 (65/65)	0.9846 (64/65)	1.0 (60/60)	0.0 (0/46)	0.9444 (51/54)	0.9275 (64/69)	0.0278 (2/72)	0.0 (0/68)	0.0 (0/38)	0.0 (0/68)	0.0 (0/60)	0.0 (0/60)	0.3623 (25/69)	0.0571 (2/35)	0.0 (0/50)
Manyara	0.9908 (216/218)	0.9679 (211/218)	1.0 (162/162)	0.011 (1/91)	0.9235 (169/183)	0.9174 (200/218)	0.2273 (55/242)	0.0 (0/202)	0.0056 (1/179)	0.0 (0/202)	0.0 (0/236)	0.0 (0/236)	0.5679 (138/243)	0.0171 (2/117)	0.0078 (1/128)
Songwe	0.9945 (360/362)	0.9613 (348/362)	1.0 (328/328)	0.0044 (1/228)	0.9254 (310/335)	0.9218 (342/371)	0.0201 (8/399)	0.0 (0/362)	0.0 (0/346)	0.0 (0/377)	0.0 (0/377)	0.0 (0/377)	0.4197 (162/386)	0.0034 (1/293)	0.0 (0/270)
Tanga	1.0 (58/58)	0.9483 (55/58)	1.0 (49/49)	0.0 (0/48)	0.9184 (45/49)	0.8571 (54/63)	0.3846 (25/65)	0.0 (0/56)	0.0 (0/30)	0.0 (0/45)	0.0058 (2/342)	0.0058 (2/342)	0.5141 (182/354)	0.0036 (1/277)	0.035 (10/286)
Tabora	0.9902 (504/509)	0.943 (480/509)	0.9977 (436/437)	0.016 (6/376)	0.9725 (459/472)	0.975 (506/519)	0.036 (20/555)	0.0022 (1/464)	0.0046 (2/438)	0.0 (0/498)	0.0 (0/213)	0.0047 (1/213)	0.6197 (132/213)	0.0181 (3/166)	0.0331 (6/181)
Kigoma	1.0 (94/94)	0.9149 (86/94)	1.0 (88/88)	0.0 (0/88)	1.0 (92/92)	1.0 (87/87)	0.3232 (32/99)	0.0 (0/100)	0.0 (0/73)	0.0 (0/94)	0.0 (0/215)	0.0 (0/215)	0.5411 (125/231)	0.0 (0/70)	0.0 (0/63)
Kilimanjaro	0.9951 (202/203)	0.9557 (194/203)	1.0 (185/185)	0.0 (0/173)	0.9524 (180/189)	0.9608 (196/204)	0.3594 (78/217)	0.0 (0/204)	0.0 (0/172)	0.0 (0/198)	0.0 (0/556)	0.0018 (1/556)	0.637 (372/584)	0.0271 (15/554)	0.0054 (3/555)
Njombe	0.991 (329/332)	0.9548 (317/332)	1.0 (291/291)	0.0 (0/246)	0.9121 (280/307)	0.8991 (303/337)	0.0474 (17/359)	0.0 (0/331)	0.0036 (1/279)	0.0029 (1/345)	0.0 (0/238)	0.0 (0/238)	0.5754 (145/252)	0.0109 (1/92)	0.0 (0/97)
Mtwara	0.8602 (160/186)	0.9462 (176/186)	1.0 (107/107)	0.0 (0/77)	0.8025 (126/157)	0.7857 (165/210)	0.0042 (1/239)	0.0 (0/170)	0.0 (0/137)	0.0 (0/144)	0.0014 (1/711)	0.0042 (3/711)	0.4446 (325/731)	0.0295 (18/610)	0.0666 (39/586)
Dar es Salaam	0.9548 (169/177)	0.9266 (164/177)	0.9914 (115/116)	0.0 (0/49)	0.8286 (116/140)	0.8541 (158/185)	0.1198 (26/217)	0.0 (0/161)	0.0 (0/137)	0.0 (0/135)	0.0 (0/63)	0.0 (0/63)	0.5385 (42/78)	0.0 (0/41)	0.0 (0/56)
Overall	0.9817 (3596/3663)	0.9378 (3435/3663)	0.9984 (3161/3166)	0.0407 (106/2606)	0.9365 (3185/3401)	0.9306 (3485/3745)	0.1174 (470/4004)	0.0006 (2/3565)	0.017 (54/3171)	0.0003 (1/3581)	0.0008 (3/3830)	0.0021 (8/3830)	0.518 (2074/4004)	0.024 (69/2880)	0.0262 (75/2861)



365 **FIGURES**

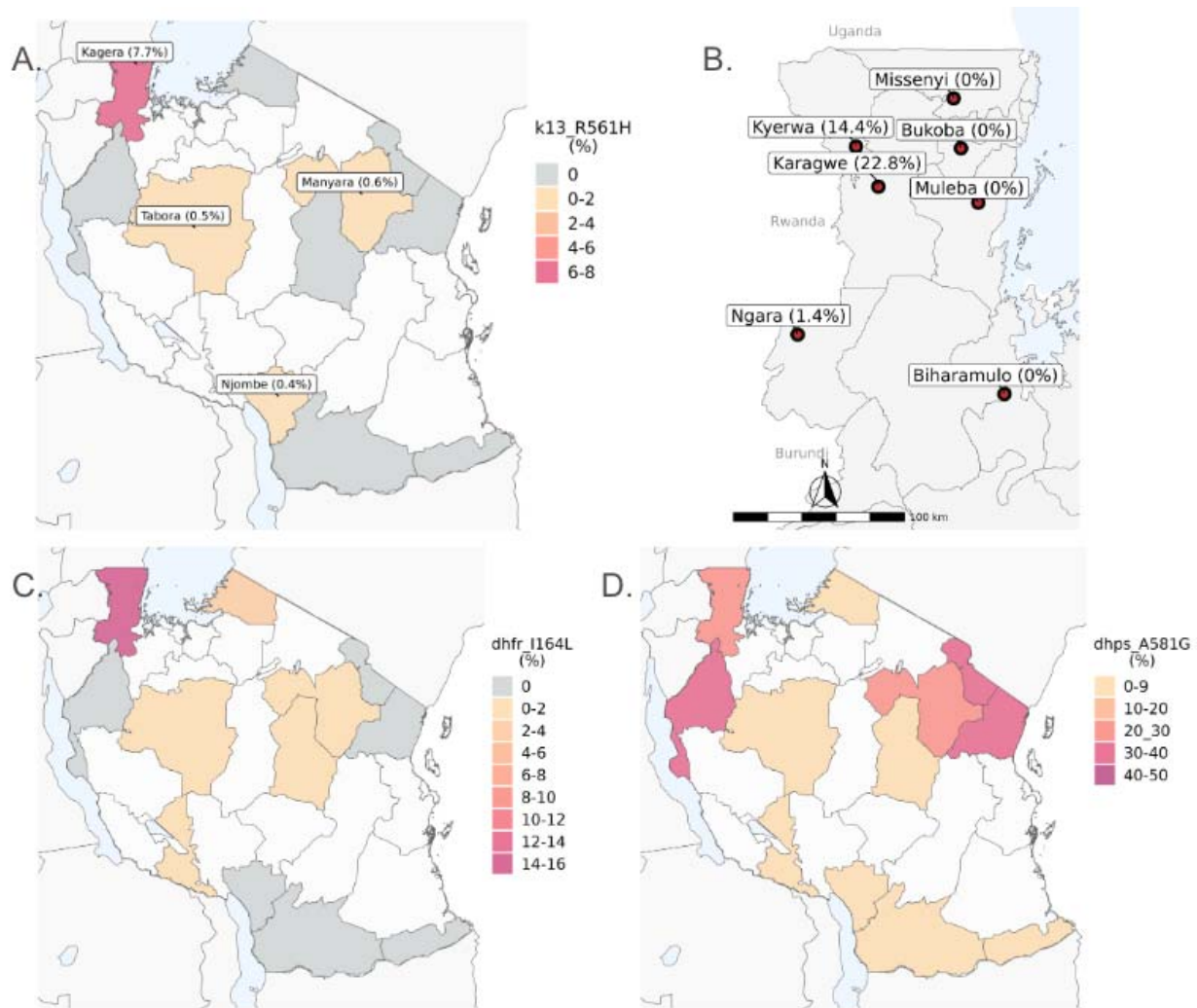


366

367 **Figure 1. Tanzania malaria prevalence and study design.** Panel A depicts a map of Tanzania  
368 showing malaria prevalence in children aged 0-59 months in 2017 as a color gradient (National  
369 Malaria Control Program data). Health facilities where sampling occurred for this study are  
370 shown as green dots, while community cross sectional collection sites are shown as yellow  
371 squares. Panel B shows the study design flowchart showing the number of samples collected at  
372 health facilities and cross sectional surveys and the success of genotyping. Priority for  
373 genotyping and analysis was given to regions in the northwest.

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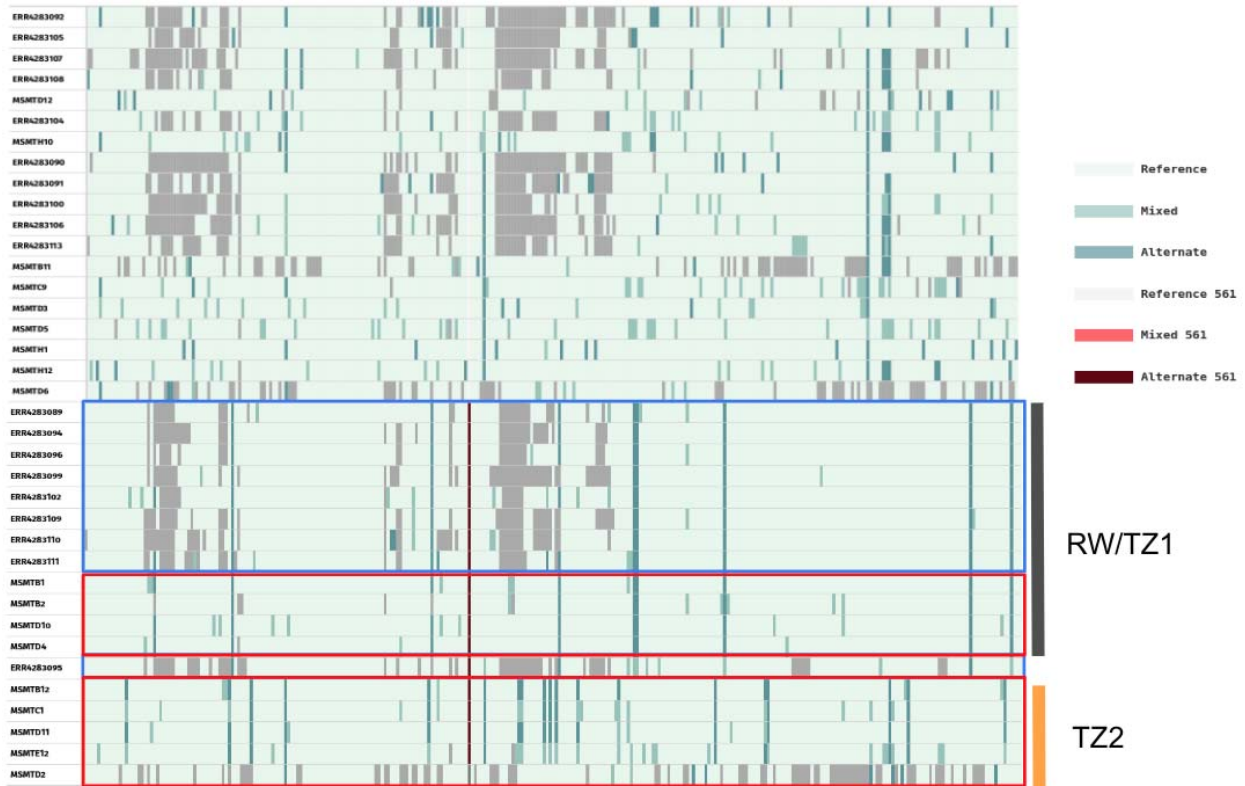


376

377 **Figure 2. Antimalarial resistance polymorphisms in Tanzania.** Panels A and B show K13  
378 561H mutations in Tanzania by region (A) and by district in Kagera (B). In Panel A, white areas  
379 represent no sampling, gray areas represent sampled areas where no K13 561H was found, and  
380 colored areas are shaded by the frequency of samples with the 56H mutation. The red box  
381 surrounds the area plotted in Panel B, which is a map of Kagera showing K13 561H prevalence  
382 in each district sampled. DHFR 164L (Panel C) and DHPS 581G (Panel D) prevalence in  
383 sampled regions are shown in color gradients. Regions with no sampling are shown in white and  
384 regions where a polymorphism was not detected is shown in grey.

385

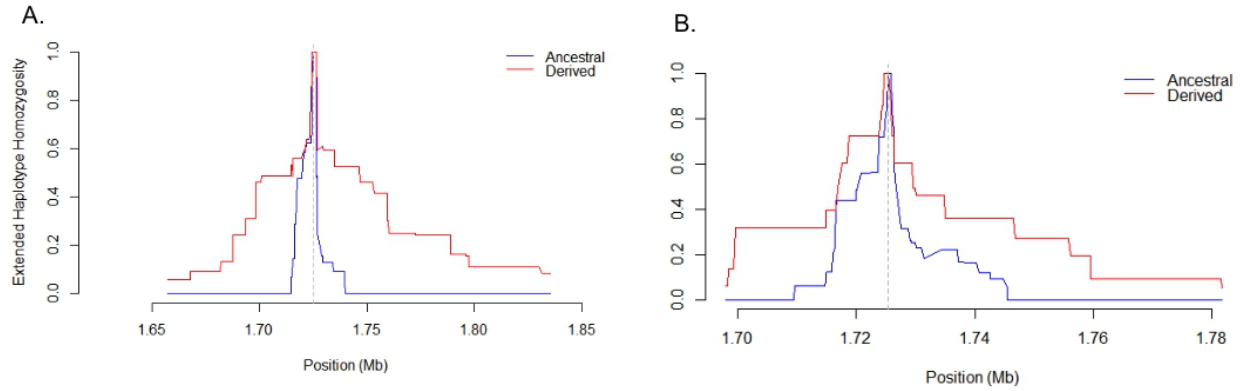
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387

388 **Figure 3. Extended flanking haplotype plot around K13 561H mutations.** Pure mutant 561H  
389 are shown in maroon. Rwandan isolates are in the blue box, while Tanzanian isolates are shown  
390 in the red boxes. Grey regions represent loci where a call could not be made.

391



392

393 **Figure 4. Extended Haplotype Heterozygosity (EHH) analysis of 561H haplotypes.** Panel A  
394 shows the extended haplotype for the RW/TZ1 561H haplotype (red-derived) compared to  
395 wildtype parasites (blue-ancestral). Panel B shows the extended haplotype of the TZ2 561H  
396 haplotype.

397

398 **Authors contribution**

399 DSI, JJJ and JB formulated the original idea. DSI, CIM, RAM, MDS and CB conducted the field  
400 surveys. DG, AF, AS, BL, ZPH, KN and AL performed data analysis under the guidance of  
401 DSI, JJJ and JB. JJJ, AS, AF, DG, BL, ZPH, CB, DP, MDS, JB, and DSI wrote and edited the  
402 manuscript. All authors contributed to the article and approved the submitted version.

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433 available at: [https://github.com/bailey-lab/MSMT\\_2021\\_DR\\_analyses](https://github.com/bailey-lab/MSMT_2021_DR_analyses).

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