



Progress on EDCTP Regional Networks of Excellence

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Sequence of the presentation:

- Background
- Rationale
- Common pitfalls in partnerships
- EDCTP's model of partnerships
- Importance of local leadership and ownership
- Importance of capacity development
- Networking as value added
- Some lessons EDCTP has on South – South Partnerships
- Importance of enabling environments
- Conclusion



Background

- EDCTP was established in 2003; Article 169 stipulating joint European research collaboration with 200 million euro contribution from EC and expected matching funds from European National Programmes
- Objective is to accelerate development of new clinical trials interventions to fight HIV/AIDS, Malaria and TB
- In 2005 EDCTP started to conceptualising Regional Nodes of Excellence
- In 2006 DCCC developed a strategy that is now called Regional Networks of Excellence



Rationale

In Africa progress to better health for all is challenged by:

- **High burden of communicable diseases**
- **Poor/weak clinical Services and high mortality caused by avoidable/preventable conditions**
- **Inadequate human resource capacity**
- **Emerging non-communicable disease**
- **Weak infrastructure for research and discoveries in support of clinical practices**

Without addressing the challenges acceleration of development of clinical interventions is not achievable



Purpose

To create and maintain sufficient capacity within Africa to formulate and conduct clinical research with focus on Poverty Related Diseases of African relevance in order to accelerate the creation of new drugs and tools for treatment and to raise the quality of clinical practices

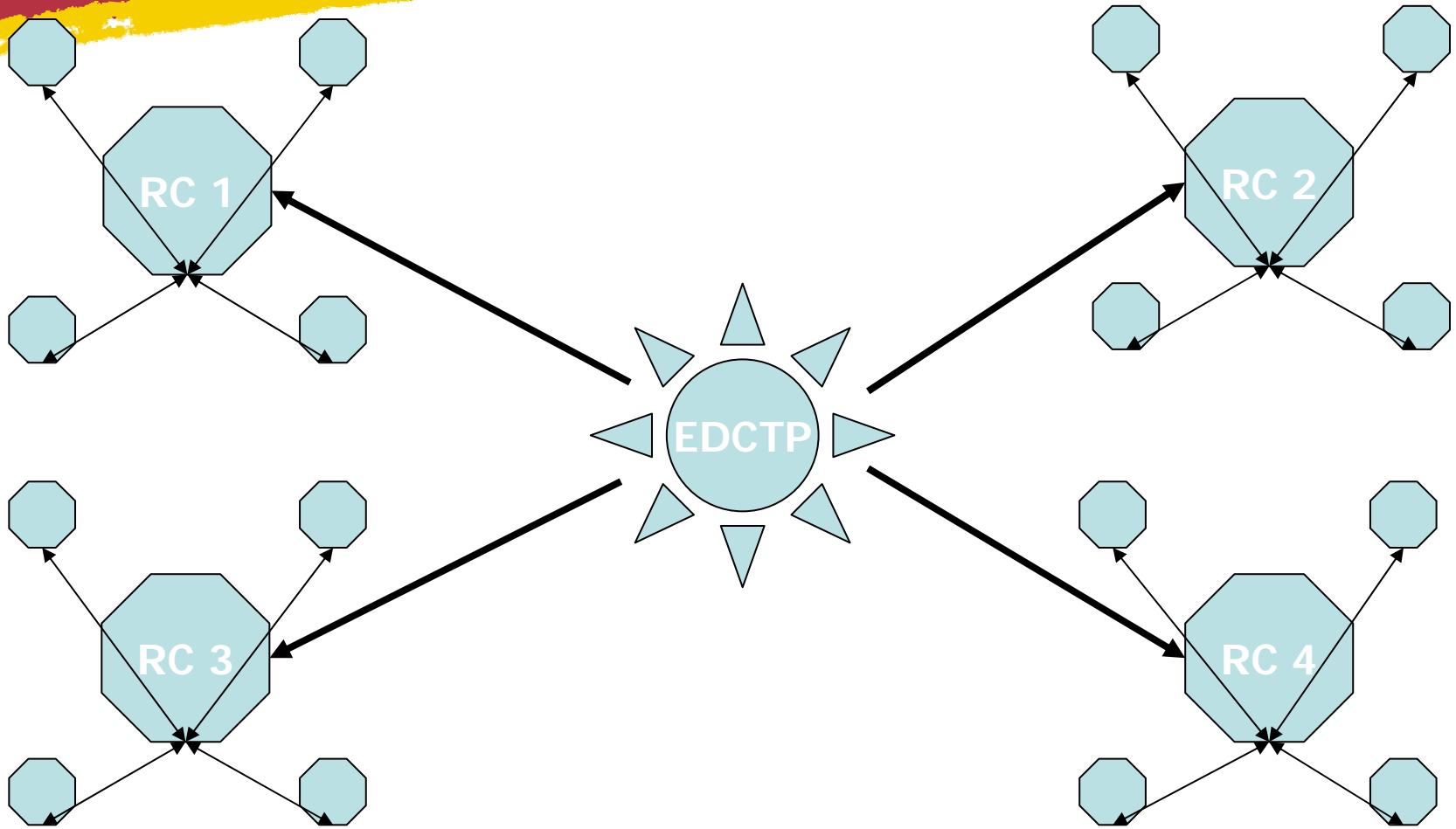


Objectives

1. To create and/or strengthen African institutions to become specialised research and training centres in clinical research
2. To strengthen their capacities in basic required skills for clinical research such as GCP, GLP, data management, ethics etc
3. To strengthen their capacities to host quality training courses in essential basic and applied sciences related to research of major poverty related diseases
4. To enhance research collaboration and networking between African institutions coordinated by the identified centres.



Conceptual Framework





Expected outcomes

- Enhanced production of PhD and MSc graduates who are linked with their institutions and who have been trained in relevant areas and within their working environment
- Establishment of strong regional networks in clinical research fields linked and coordinated through EDCTP and generating under EDCTP principles
- Enhanced Capacity to access Global Fund
- Accelerated participation of numerous research centre in multi-centre trials and therefore contribute to the EDCTP goals



Methodology:

- Call for proposals/letters of intent
- Assessment of institutional capacity (EDCTP SECRETARIAT)
- Accreditation for full application as EDCTP Nodes of Excellence
- Centres with insufficient capacity can apply to increase capacity in one of identified areas
 - GCP
 - GLP
 - Data Management
 - Quality control
 - Ethics
 - ETC.....



Progress (1)

- A stakeholder meeting to decide on the approach was convened in Douala on 8 May 2007
- A call for proposals was published on 1 August 2007 with deadline of 3 December 2007.
- Pre-proposal regional networking meeting was funded by EDCTP took place in Cape Town on 20 September 2007



Progress (2)

38 participants attended Cape Town meeting: 2 from Wellcome Trust and rest from 4 regions:

West Africa:

- Centre Muraz, Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso
- Centre National de recherche et de Formation sur le paludisme (CNRFP), Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
- Nigerian Institute for Medical Research, Lagos, Nigeria
- Malaria Research and Training Center, DEAP/FMPOS/University of Bamako, Mali
- Innovative Biotech Limited, Nasarawa State Nigeria
- Institut Pasteur de Daka, Senegal
- Laboratoire de Bactériologie-Virologie, Dakar, Senegal
- Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research University of Ghana, Accra, Ghana.



Progress (3)

East Africa

- Uganda Virus Research Institute, Entebbe, Uganda
- Mbeya Medical Research Programme, Mbeya, Tanzania
- Medical Biotech Laboratories, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) Wellcome Research Programme, Kilifi, Kenya
- Department of Medical Microbiology, University of Nairobi, Kenya
- National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- Muhimbili University College of Health Sciences, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Central Africa

- Medical Research Unit, Lambarene, Gabon.
- Organisation de Coordination Pour la Lutte Contre les Endémies en Afrique Centrale (OCEAC), Yaoundé, Cameroun
- Centre d'Etudes sur les Ressources Végétales (CERVE), Brazzaville, Congo



Progress (4)

■ South Africa

- College of Health Science, Biochemistry and Immunology Departments, University of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe
- Tropical Diseases Research Centre, Ndola, Zambia
- Medical Research Council of South Africa, Durban. South Africa
- Institute of Infectious Diseases and Molecular Medicine, South African TB Vaccine Initiative, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa
- University of Stellenbosch, Cape Town, South Africa
- College of Medicine-John Hopkins University Project, Blantyre, Malawi
- Biomedical Research & Training Institute (BRTI), Harare, Zimbabwe
- University Of Zambia School of Medicine, Lusaka, Zambia
- City Health Department, Harare, Zimbabwe
- Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
- United Farmers Fund, Cape Town, South Africa



Next steps

- EDCTP awaits submission of regional proposals
- Scientific review of proposals scheduled for February 2008
- Funding starts 2nd quarter 2008

Thanks for your attention