

EDCTP Update | July 2022



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EDCTP Annual Report 2021

Annual Report 2021

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Achieving excellence and equity in global health research

Nine years since its launch, the second EDCTP programme (EDCTP2) is already achieving its objectives, successfully advancing the development of medical interventions and building sustainable clinical research capabilities in sub-Saharan Africa. The 2021 Annual Report summarises progress and achievements of EDCTP-managed activities as well as projects directly funded by Participating States that are making an important contribution to the EDCTP2 portfolio.

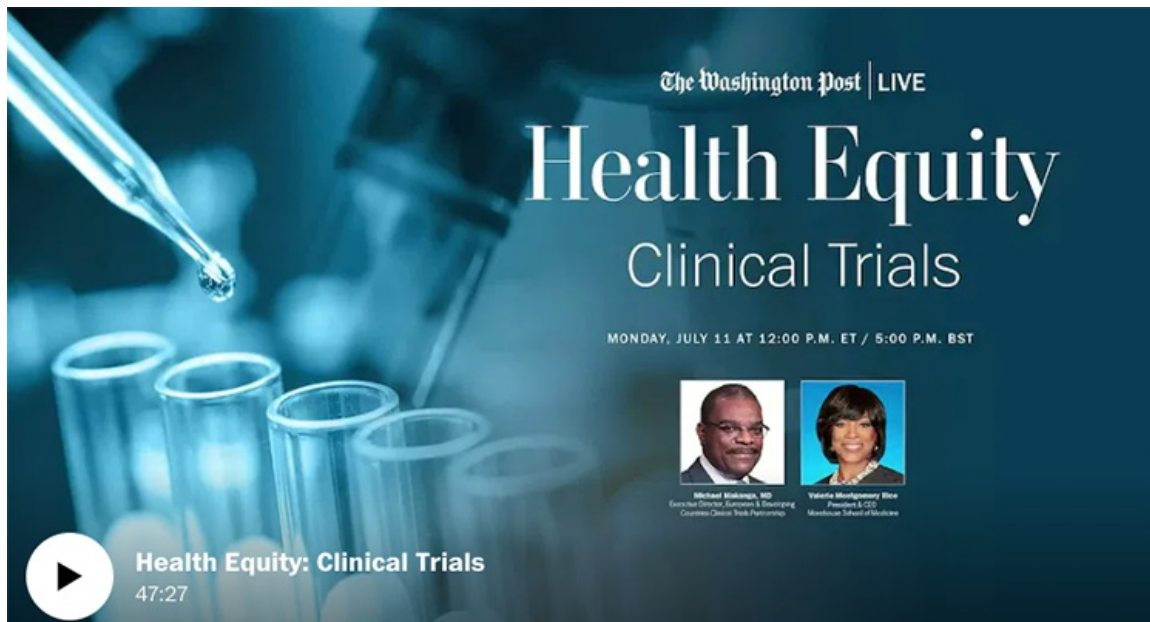
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EDCTP National Health Research Systems 2020 survey report



Recent public health emergencies in Africa have shown that countries with poor health research systems and weak research infrastructure need to be strengthened to meet the challenges of outbreak preparedness. In 2018, EDCTP and the WHO Regional Office for Africa (WHO-AFRO) partnered to explore the use of a 'barometer' as a tool to create a roadmap for the development of national health research systems (NHRS) in the region. EDCTP's latest survey based on this barometer shows a slight overall improvement in the performance of the NHRS of its African Participating States.


Washington Post Live interview with Dr Michael Makanga



On 11 July 2022, Washington Post Live broadcast a live online interview with EDCTP Executive Director Dr Michael Makanga about how to make medical research more representative and the lessons learned from the coronavirus pandemic. The interview was conducted by Frances Stead Sellers, senior writer at The Washington Post. One of the key topics was the question why fewer than 3% of clinical trials take place on the African continent, while the continent carries 25% of the global disease burden.

[Watch the Washington Post Live episode »](#)

EDCTP Knowledge Hub featured in the new WHO guide on sharing research data



Sharing and reuse of health-related data for research purposes: WHO policy and implementation guidance

In April 2022, WHO published a new guide '[Sharing and reuse of health-related data for research purposes: WHO policy and implementation guidance](#)' which outlines WHO's position that sharing research data is a global public good. The policy requires WHO-supported researchers to share data in ways that are equitable, ethical and efficient and follow the technical requirements to ensure the data are findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable – the [FAIR](#) principles – which is in keeping with EDCTP's policy on clinical trials registration, publication and data sharing. WHO's guide also directs researchers to comprehensive resources, including the [EDCTP Knowledge Hub](#), developed in partnership with The Global Health Network. According to the guidance document, the Knowledge Hub *"provides a wealth of good research practice resources, reading material and explanatory videos as well as a search function to identify the best online repository to share your research data."* EDCTP will continue to support researchers to design, conduct and share research of the highest quality and we strongly encourage anyone working in clinical research to visit our Knowledge Hub and make use of these free interactive toolkits and resources.

WHO report on Accelerating access to genomics for global health



Accelerating access to genomics for global health



On 12 July 2022, WHO's Science Council of experts published its first report on accelerating access to genomics for global health. The report follows the release of WHO's 10-year strategy for genomic surveillance of pathogens. Genomic surveillance has played a crucial role in the global COVID-19 response, with countries like South Africa able to make crucial contributions in detecting variants, due to their capacities in this area. Recent data from WHO shows that the percentage of countries able to conduct genomic surveillance increased from 54% to 68% between March 2021 and January 2022, due to major investments made during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report recommends, among others, that WHO create a Genomics Committee. A key responsibility proposed for the Genomics Committee is convening commercial organisations to develop and implement ways of making their products and technologies affordable in LMICs.

[More information »](#)

Public consultation on the new EU Global Health Strategy



The European Commission is inviting input to its new [EU Global Health Strategy](#). This new strategy aims to respond to the changes in global health and geopolitics and to strengthen EU leadership in this area. The aim of the consultation is to let a wide range of participants, from stakeholders to the public, give their views on what the global health strategy should include. The public consultation is open until 19 September 2022. The input will be summarised in a synopsis report, explaining how it has been taken into account.

[More information »](#)

Recent events

EDCTP visit to Zimbabwe

On 4-5 July 2022, a three-person EDCTP team comprising its Director of Finance &

Administration, Operations Manager and Strategic Partnerships & Capacity Development Manager visited the University of Zimbabwe Clinical Research Center (UZCRC). Nine institutions in Zimbabwe received research funding from EDCTP under its first programme (2003-2015), totaling €3.1 million. Under the second EDCTP programme (2014-2024), seven institutions in the country were awarded a total of €11.7 million, of which €6.1 million is allocated to 13 projects at UZCRC.

The projects include three Coordination and Support Actions (CSA), including one participation in the southern Africa Regional Network of Excellence, one Participating State Initiated Activity (PSIA), seven Research and Innovation Actions (RIA) and one Training and Mobility Action (TMA). These projects are aiming to find key solutions and interventions across different disease areas including improving treatment strategies of adolescents infected with HIV, improving fixed-dose combinations of anti-retroviral treatment among children with new HIV-infection, optimising second-line treatment options for children infected with HIV, and improving survival of HIV-infected children with severe pneumonia. The visit to UZCRC was very successful.

EDCTP routinely visits the research centres it funds in sub-Saharan Africa to monitor the progress of EDCTP projects, to meet project staff and to gain an understanding of the research environment. EDCTP visits include an audit of technical and financial documents; discussion with staff about opportunities and challenges; information sharing on the EDCTP programme. These visits inform EDCTP's strategy on capacity building in sub-Saharan Africa.

Workshop on EDCTP Association Member contributions to Global Health EDCTP3

On 13 July 2022, the EDCTP Secretariat organised a workshop for EDCTP Association General Assembly Members on how they can make in-kind contributions to additional activities (IKAAs) of the Global Health (GH) EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking (JU). IKAAs are activities that are funded and implemented by one or more EDCTP Association Member participating in the GH EDCTP3 JU and which fall within the scope of the GH EDCTP3 [Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda](#). Planned IKAAs are included as an annex to the annual work programmes of the GH EDCTP3 JU. The workshop, which was attended by over 30 participants, provided an overview of the GH EDCTP3 JU governance and priority areas, and explained in detail the mechanism for IKAAs. Discussion was focused on approaches for identifying and submitting IKAAs (including joint initiatives), strategies for alignment, and potential actions for linking up with the activities funded by other countries. A subsequent workshop focusing on reporting requirements for IKAAs is expected to take place later this year.

Project news

EMPIRICAL study: Patient recruitment reaches halfway point



The EMPIRICAL study (Empirical treatment against cytomegalovirus and tuberculosis in severe pneumonia in HIV-infected infants: a randomized controlled clinical trial) has reached an important milestone: on 8 July 2022, the clinical study randomised patient number 312, which is 50% of the study's recruitment target of 624.

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ETEC ETVAX: phase IIb trial recruitment completed



All children have been enrolled in a phase IIb study in The Gambia evaluating the efficacy of a highly promising vaccine against enterotoxigenic *E. coli.*, known as ETVAX®. The **ETEC ETVAX** project is developing a new formulation of ETVAX® that will be better suited to young children, as well as a convenient device for administering the vaccine.

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GELA project in Cochrane newsletter



The GELA (Global Evidence, Local Adaptation) project aims to enhance evidence-informed guideline recommendations for newborn and young child health in three countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The project, launched in April 2022, was highlighted in the July 2022 issue of the [Cochrane Newsletter](#).

[Read more »](#)

CSIGN project dissemination meeting



The COVID-19 Surveillance Intensification Network (CSIGN) team in Ghana held a final project dissemination meeting at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) in June 2022. The project aimed to enhance COVID-19 surveillance in Ghana to generate locally relevant data to guide public health responses.

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BREATHER Plus: start of recruitment in Uganda

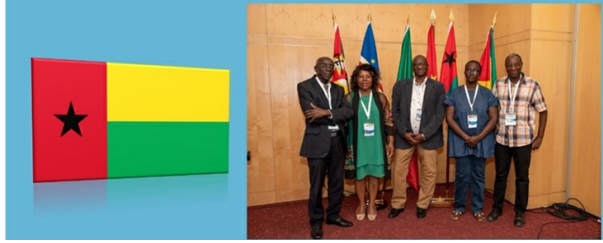


Screening for the BREATHER Plus trial started at the end of June and the first participants were recruited on 29 June in Uganda. BREATHER Plus study is evaluating whether simpler treatments maintain control of HIV but are easier for adolescents to manage.

[Read more »](#)

BERC-Luso visits Guinea-Bissau

VISITA DA COORDENAÇÃO DO BERC-LUSO À GUINÉ BISSAU



On 10-14 April 2022, the BERC-Luso coordination team visited Guinea-Bissau. The BERC-Luso project's main goal is to enhance biomedical ethics and regulatory capacities in Portuguese-speaking African countries.

[Read more »](#)

BCA-WA ETHICS II: Guinea-Bissau National Research Ethics Committee website launched



In the presence of His Excellency the Minister of Health of Guinea-Bissau Dr Dionísio Cumba, [BCA-WA-ETHICS II](#) launched the first ever website and digital platform for the Guinea-Bissau National Health Research Ethics Committee (CNEPS). The website is expected to raise awareness about research ethics at a national level and allows researchers to learn more about the procedures of protocol submission.

[Read more »](#)

BCA-WA ETHICS II: over 130 scientists at "Fundamentals of research ethics" training



On 27 June 2022, BCA-WA-ETHICS II and the [Africa Bioethics Network](#) kicked off the five-day training programme on the "Fundamentals of research ethics". The training covered a wide range of themes, among others: ethical principles in research, composition and functions of review committees, research design and ethics, informed consent and reaching vulnerable populations.

[Read more »](#)

EDCTP Fellows

SCONE project: summary of first-year activities

The Slash and Clear for ONchocerciasis control and Epilepsy prevention (SCONE) project, led by EDCTP Career Development Fellow Dr Joseph N. Siewe Fodjo, aims to deploy a novel method (Slash and Clear) to reduce the abundance of blackfly insects,



vectors on the tropical disease onchocerciasis (river blindness), in Cameroonian villages.

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Publications

EDCTP is a member of [Europe PMC](#). This enables EDCTP-funded researchers to share their publications via one central location. Sharing publications by EuropePMC also ensures that they will satisfy the requirements for EDCTP-funded research projects: making publications openly accessible as soon as possible. [Submit your manuscript through Europe PMC Plus](#)

- *PLoS One*: [Prevalence of *Cryptococcus gattii* in Ugandan HIV-infected patients presenting with cryptococcal meningitis](#). Wembabazi A *et al.* (15 July 2022)
- *PLOS Global Public Health*: [Timeliness of routine childhood vaccination in 103 low- and middle-income countries, 1978–2021: A scoping review to map measurement and methodological gaps](#). Wariri O *et al* (14 July 2022)
- *J Cell Mol Med*: [HIV cure strategies: which ones are appropriate for Africa?](#) Abana CZ *et al.* (6 July 2022)
- *Clin Infect Dis*: [Diagnostic Accuracy of the Cepheid 3-gene Host Response Fingerstick Blood Test in a Prospective, Multi-site Study: Interim Results](#). Sutherland JS *et al.* (1 July 2022)
- *Trials*: [Empirical treatment against cytomegalovirus and tuberculosis in HIV-infected infants with severe pneumonia: study protocol for a multicenter, open-label randomized controlled clinical trial](#). Rojo P *et al.* (27 June 2022)
- *PLOS Negl Trop Dis*: [Zaire ebolavirus surveillance near the Bikoro region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo during the 2018 outbreak reveals presence of seropositive bats](#). Seifert SN *et al.* (22 June 2022)
- *Microbiol Spectr*: [Detection and Quantification of Viable *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Bacilli in Saline-Processed Stool Samples by Tuberculosis Molecular Bacterial Load Assay: a Potential Alternative for Processing Stool](#). Musisi E *et al.* (12 May 2022)

Resources



[Collaborative clinical R&D](#)
online



[Clinical research capacity](#)
PDF



[Fellowships](#)
online

- EDCTP | [Knowledge Hub: Tools and guidance for conducting clinical research](#)
- EDCTP | [Guidelines for grantees - Progress report](#)
- EDCTP | [Template for Grant Agreement Annex 5](#)
- ERUDIT | [Planning for Financial Sustainability manual](#)
- Europe PMC webinar | [Watch the recording](#) and [download the slides](#)
- TRUST project | [Video introducing the Global Code of Conduct](#)

Training and funding opportunities

Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking calls for proposals | Deadline: 30 August 2022

The Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking (GH EDCTP3 JU) launched its first [calls for proposals](#) in May 2022 with a deadline of 30 August 2022. The topics of the calls are:

- Promoting implementation of research results into policy and practice
- Creating a sustainable clinical trial network for infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa
- Genomic epidemiology for surveillance and control of poverty-related and emerging/re-emerging infections in sub-Saharan Africa
- Strengthening regulatory capacity for supporting conduct of clinical trials
- Implementing adaptive platform trials

The calls for proposals are published in the European Commission's [Funding and Tender opportunities portal](#). For more information, a recording is available of the [Info day](#) that was held on 2 June 2022. More information on the [GH EDCTP3 JU](#) can be found on the programme's website.

AVAREF Good Clinical Practice (GCP) course

On 26 May 2022, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched a clinical trials inspections online course. One of the most important aspects of a clinical trial is the capacity of the sites and compliance with the approved protocol, hence the importance of good clinical and laboratory practices. This online training is designed to complement the African Vaccine Regulatory Forum (AVAREF) guideline and checklist for the inspection of clinical trials. It is intended for the professional development of good clinical practice (GCP) inspectors through self-paced learning. The course is available in English, French and Portuguese.

[More information »](#)

Call for applications: Population, Ethics, and Human Rights Fellowship |

Deadline: 31 August 2022

The Population, Ethics, and Human Rights Fellowship programme is designed for exceptional early-career professionals, scholars and others with a demonstrated interest in population register systems. The call for applications is issued by USC Institute on Inequalities in Global Health (USC IGH) in partnership with the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WiSER) and Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (ISER). Applications are encouraged from participants from low- and middle-income countries across different geographic regions and disciplinary expertise.

[More information \(PDF\) »](#)

GHIT Fund 17th Request for Proposals | Deadline: 31 August 2022

The Global Health Innovative Technology (GHIT) Fund released its 17th Request for Proposals for the Hit-to-Lead Platform to support the drug discovery and development process to address Malaria, Tuberculosis, Chagas disease, and Visceral leishmaniasis.

[More information »](#)

Mark your calendar

Lusophone Bioethics Meeting | 14 September 2022

On 14 September 2022, the Portuguese National Ethics Council for Life Sciences is organising the event 'Bioethics and Public Health: Goals for Global Health'. The event aims to create a broad platform for Portuguese-speaking countries for sharing experiences and formulating guidelines in the field of ethics in life sciences. The event will take place between 15:00 and 19:30 CET at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (Lisbon, Portugal).

[More information \(in Portuguese\) »](#)

The Global Health Network Conference 2022 | 24-25 November 2022

Under the theme 'Enabling Health Research in Every Healthcare Setting', this conference aims to bring together health research teams, organisations, health-workers, policy makers and practitioners to explore together how health research can be embedded into every healthcare setting. The conference will be hosted by University of Cape Town, South Africa.

[More information and registration »](#)

European Research and Innovation Days 2022 | 28-29 September 2022

European Research and Innovation Days is the European Commission's annual flagship Research and Innovation event, bringing together policymakers, researchers, entrepreneurs and the public to debate and shape the future of research and innovation in Europe and beyond. Discussions will focus on the new European Innovation Agenda, the European Year of Youth, the richness of European cultural creativity, the EU Missions and many more topics. On the second day of the conference, the Horizon Europe strategic planning 2025-2027 will be launched.

[More information »](#)

EDCTP Communications thanks everyone who provided information for this Update.

