

EDCTP Update | February 2024



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Read the EDCTP eMagazine

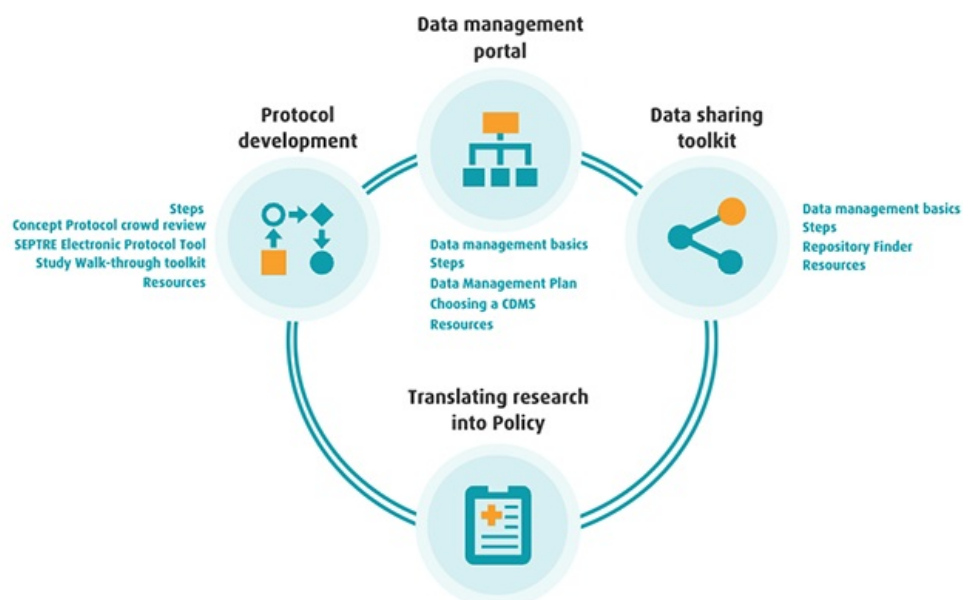


The seventh issue of the EDCTP eMagazine has just been published. We invite you to browse through the magazine. Featured articles include:

- The Eleventh EDCTP Forum – summary and main highlights
- Impact of EDCTP2-funded clinical research on health policy and practice, featuring some of the project outcomes of the EDCTP2 programme
- 20 years of EDCTP
- EDCTP Fellows’ meeting – summary and report.

[Read the eMagazine »](#)

EDCTP Knowledge Hub: research into policy and practice survey



In 2020, EDCTP and [The Global Health Network](#) launched the [EDCTP Knowledge Hub](#), an online platform with open-access resources for researchers conducting clinical research in low-resource settings. With financial support from the European

Union, the Swedish government and the UK National Institute for Health and Care Research, funded by the Department of Health and Social Care, EDCTP commissioned The Global Health Network to develop this digital knowledge hub to provide researchers with tools and guidance that enable them to undertake high-quality health research.

On 9 November 2023, at the Eleventh EDCTP Forum in Paris, France, EDCTP and The Global Health Network organised a hybrid workshop to present the existing EDCTP Knowledge Hub tools and user experience testimonials, and provide an introduction to the new toolkit under development on [translating research into policy](#). The vision for this new toolkit is to grow a community of practice made up of researchers in low-and middle-income countries and develop up-to-date resource areas, eLearning courses, online interactive tools etc., to serve as an active and intuitive, open-access, 'one-stop shop' for guidance and practical tools and resources to support health researchers or policy-makers translate findings into policy.

Over 40 workshop participants discussed the needs and challenges around translating research into policy that are faced by researchers working in resource-limited settings and possible solutions. View the slides and initial findings of the workshop captured in a series of polls [here](#).

We invite you to help with shaping this new toolkit by completing a short survey about the situation where you carry out research.

[Complete the survey »](#)

Workshop: Publishing research from EDCTP on Open Research Europe



EDCTP has joined [Open Research Europe \(ORE\)](#), the European Commission's Open Access publishing platform. Open Research Europe is an open access publishing platform that facilitates beneficiaries and researchers from Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe and Euratom funding to comply with open access policies by providing an easy, high-quality peer-

reviewed venue to publish, at no cost.

[EDCTP2-funded researchers](#) can now submit publications on this platform, without any author fees.

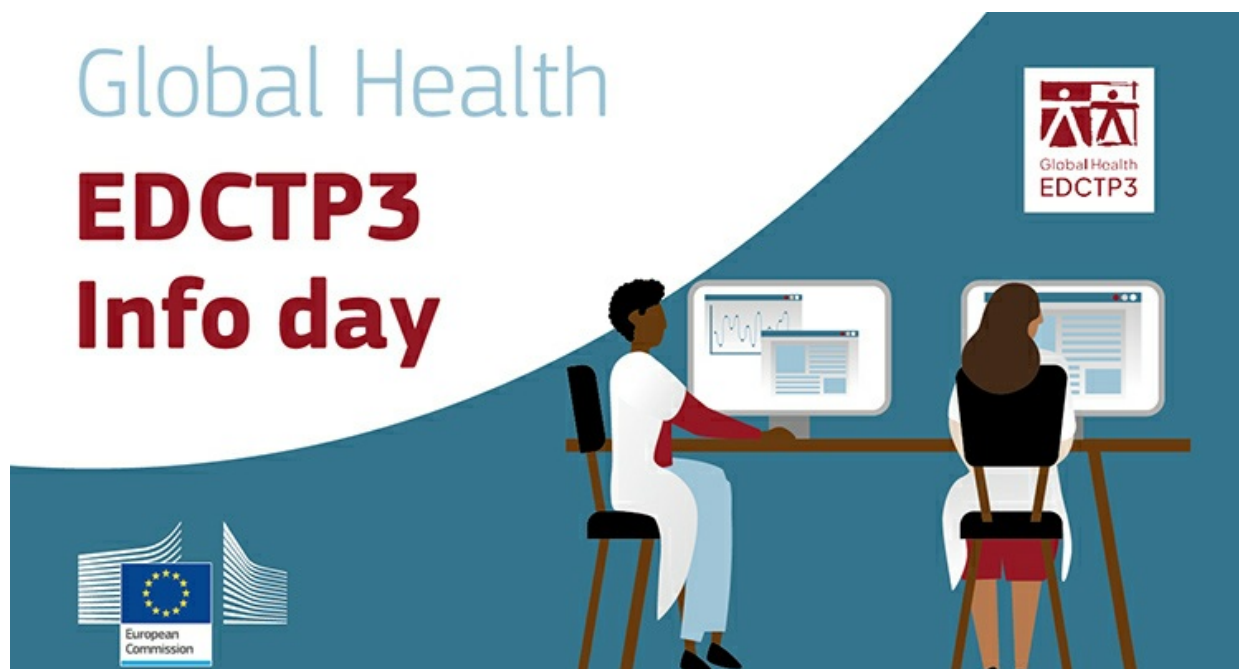
We invite all EDCTP2 grant holders to join this webinar where the ORE team will explain in more detail how the platform works, how to submit your publication and provide the opportunity to ask questions.

When: 7 March 2024 at 14:00 (CET)

Where: Virtual

[Register to attend »](#)

Global Health EDCTP3 - 2024 Info days



On 6-7 February 2024, Global Health EDCTP3 and two EDCTP Association – France and Portugal – hosted a series of information sessions in several languages (English, French and Portuguese). The events provided potential applicants with information on the Global Health EDCTP3 calls for proposals under Work Programme 2024 with over €140 million in funding opportunities. The presentations and recordings of these Info Days can be found on the [Global Health EDCTP3 website](#), as well as a [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) document](#) clarifying outstanding issues on eligibility and other administrative matters.

Viewpoint: the EU must continue to support development of drugs for neglected infectious diseases in Framework Programme 10



Dr Michael Makanga, Executive Director of the Global Health EDCTP3, and Dr Luis Pizarro, Executive Director of the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi), co-authored a view point published by Science | Business on how an EU-enabled drug development offers a valuable lesson as negotiations get underway on the next research programme.

[Read more »](#)

Healthcare research: can it go truly global?



A Science | Business article published on 27 February 2024 highlighted the discussions at the Science | Business Annual Conference on 13 February 2024, where speakers called for more co-operation between the EU and the Global South on research into major health challenges. During the conference, Maria Cristina Russo, Director, Global Approach and International Cooperation, DG RTD, European Commission, highlighted how the work of EDCTP is translating into tangible results and stressed the importance of fully involving African countries by shifting away from just giving funds to the concept of co-ownership.

[Read more »](#)

Recent events

ERA4Health Partnership workshop: Funding mechanisms for investigator-initiated clinical studies

On 8-9 February 2024, the second [ERA4Health Partnership](#) workshop on 'Funding Mechanisms for Investigator-Initiated Clinical Studies' was hosted by ECRIN in Brussels, Belgium, bringing together funders, clinical study experts, the European Commission, and HaDEA representatives. Its goal was to explore funding for multinational investigator-initiated clinical studies (IICS), addressing public health needs. Lara Pandya, Strategic Partnerships (North) and Communications Manager, represented EDCTP at the workshop and was among the guests invited to give presentations on different initiatives currently funding or planning to fund multinational studies.

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Research perspectives on the health impacts of climate change

On 19-20 February 2024, the European Commission hosted a [high-level conference](#) on 'Research Perspectives on the Health Impacts of Climate Change' which brought together researchers, policymakers and relevant stakeholders to reflect on the research needs in the field of climate change and human health. Michael Makanga, Executive Director of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking, participated in Plenary session 4 on 'Global perspectives on climate change and health' where he reiterated the importance of prioritising research investments into the effects of climate change on health to inform the establishment of context-specific and evidence-based solutions. The recordings can be found [here](#) (Under 'Category' please search for 'Research and Innovation').

Filovirus Clinical Research Workshop

The Filovirus Clinical Research Workshop, co-hosted by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Health of Uganda, took place on 20-22 February 2024 in Kampala, Uganda. This workshop aimed to foster collaboration for evaluating filovirus candidate vaccines and therapeutics within outbreak responses, led by Ministries of Health and national research teams, and to review existing trial protocols for candidate filovirus vaccines and therapeutics and reach consensus on key trial design attributes. Additionally, a roadmap for a collaborative network of filovirus researchers in "at risk" countries will be developed, as well as an engagement framework on clinical research preparedness and ensuring clinical research is integrated into future outbreak responses. Dr Thomas Nyirenda, Strategic Partnerships & Capacity Development Manager and Head of Africa Office, represented EDCTP at the workshop.

Project news

Kick of meeting of the LIFE2Scale study

The EDCTP-funded LIFE2Scale Study kicked off in January 2024 in Zanzibar. The study will evaluate a package of programme



supporting interventions with the aim to implement neonatal HIV test and treat strategies in a rural African environment in a hub & spoke model and will investigate new neonatal dolutegravir based antiretroviral regimens towards clinical and virological endpoints. The kick-off meeting brought together the various study stakeholders to discuss the study both theoretically (design and goals) and operationally (study procedure training): policy-makers from the health ministry, study team members from Tanzania, Mozambique and Germany as well as representative nurses and counsellors who work directly with the target patients.

PEDVAC-iNTS starts a phase 2 clinical trial of a vaccine against invasive non-Typhoidal Salmonellosis in Ghana



On 12 February 2024, the [PEDVAC-iNTS Consortium](#) announced that the first participant has been vaccinated with the iNTS- GMMA vaccine in a phase II study in Ghana. The iNTS-GMMA vaccine is a candidate vaccine against invasive non-Typhoidal Salmonellosis (iNTS), a major cause of death and disability in sub-Saharan Africa. There are currently no licensed vaccines against the disease.

[Read more »](#)

ASAAP study completes recruitment



The ASAAP consortium announced on 19 February 2024 the total enrollment of 1,664 children. The study aims to adapt existing, efficacious medicines for the treatment of malaria in African children by testing the efficacy, safety, tolerability, and transmission-blocking activity of an artemisinin-based triple therapy with Artemether+Lumefantrine and Atovaquone-Proguanil (AL+AP) compared to the standard AL therapy.

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.](#)

- *BMC Infectious Diseases*: [A stool based qPCR for the diagnosis of TB in children and people](#)

- [living with HIV in Uganda, Eswatini and Mozambique \(Stool4TB\): a protocol for a multicenter diagnostic evaluation.](#) Carratala-Castro, L, et al. 21 February 2024
- *BMC Health Services Research*: [Newborn and child health national and provincial clinical practice guidelines in South Africa, Nigeria and Malawi: a scoping review.](#) Mthethwa, M, et al. 19 February 2024
 - *PLOS Global Public Health*: [Perceptions around COVID-19 among patients and community members in urban areas in Cameroon: A qualitative perspective.](#) Kwedi Nolna, S, et al. 16 February 2024
 - *BMC Infectious Diseases*: [Performance evaluation of Truenat MTB and Truenat MTB-RIF DX assays in comparison to gene XPERT MTB/RIF ultra for the diagnosis of pulmonary tuberculosis in Uganda.](#) Ssengooba, W, et al. 13 February 2024
 - *PLoS One*: [Clinical epidemiology, determinants, and outcomes of viral encephalitis in Ghana; a cross-sectional study.](#) Yeboah, R, et al. 12 February 2024
 - *BMJ Open*: [Enhanced active case finding of drug-resistant tuberculosis in Namibia: a protocol for the hotspots, hospitals, and households \(H3TB\) study.](#) Shavuka, O, et al. 10 February 2024
 - *The Lancet. Microbe*: [Development and validation of quantitative PCR assays for HIV-associated cryptococcal meningitis in sub-Saharan Africa: a diagnostic accuracy study.](#) Mbangiwa, T, et al. 8 February 2024
 - *BMC Infectious Diseases*: [Diagnosis of human leptospirosis: systematic review and meta-analysis of the diagnostic accuracy of the Leptospira microscopic agglutination test, PCR targeting Lfb1, and IgM ELISA to Leptospira fainei serovar Hurstbridge.](#) Valente, M, et al. 7 February 2024
 - *Eclinicalmedicine*: [How does post COVID differ from other post-viral conditions in childhood and adolescence \(0-20 years old\)? A systematic review.](#) Minotti, C, et al. 2 February 2024
 - *EbioMedicine*: [Reactivation of Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus \(KSHV\) by SARS-CoV-2 in non-hospitalised HIV-infected patients.](#) Lambarey, H, et al. 2 February 2024
 - *Frontiers in Immunology*: [Sustained S-IgG and S-IgA antibodies to Moderna's mRNA-1273 vaccine in a Sub-Saharan African cohort suggests need for booster timing reconsiderations.](#) Serwanga, J, et al. 31 January 2024
 - *European Journal of Medical Research*: [Comment on: Proposal for a new diagnostic classification of photodistributed Stevens-Johnson syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis.](#) Thwala, B N, et al. 29 January 2024
 - *PLOS Glob Public Health*: [Screening for post-TB lung disease at TB treatment completion: Are symptoms sufficient?](#) Meghji, J, et al. 29 January 2024
 - *Viruses*: [Clinical Significance of Elevated KSHV Viral Load in HIV-Related Kaposi's Sarcoma Patients in South Africa.](#) Tibenderana, R M, et al. 26 January 2024
 - *PLOS Glob Public Health*: [Identifying critically ill children in Malawi: A modified qSOFA score for low-resource settings.](#) Kumwenda, M, et al. 25 January 2024
 - *Nature Medicine*: [HIV drug resistance to integrase inhibitors in low- and middle-income countries.](#) Fokam, J, et al. 23 January 2024
 - *Frontiers in Public Health*: [The impact of geriatric syndromes on quality of life among older people living with HIV in Kampala, Uganda.](#) Senkoro, E, et al. 23 January 2024
 - *BMC Medical Genomics*: [A consideration of CYP2D6 genetic variations in the Ghanaian population as a potential 'culprit' for the tramadol 'abuse crisis'.](#) Thomford, N E, et al. 22 January 2024
 - *Frontiers in Immunology*: [Analyses of human vaccine-specific circulating and bone marrow-resident B cell populations reveal benefit of delayed vaccine booster dosing with blood-stage malaria antigens.](#) Barrett, J R, et al. 17 January 2024
 - *The Journal of Pediatrics*: [Characterization of HIV-1 Reservoirs in Children and Adolescents: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Toward Pediatric HIV Cure.](#) Ka'e, AC, et al. 17 January 2024
 - *Lancet (London, England)*: [Chemoprevention for malaria with monthly intermittent preventive treatment with dihydroartemisinin-piperaquine in pregnant women living with HIV on daily co-trimoxazole in Kenya and Malawi: a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial.](#) Barsosio, H C, et al. 12 January 2024
 - *Diagnostics (Basel, Switzerland)*: [Comparison of the Diagnostic Performances of Five Different Tests in Diagnosing Visceral Leishmaniasis in an Endemic Region of Ethiopia.](#) Hagos, D G, et al. 11 January 2024
 - *Frontiers in Immunology*: [Recent advances in understanding the human host immune response in tuberculous meningitis.](#) Barnacle, J R, et al. 9 January 2024
 - *Journal of Clinical Tuberculosis and Other Mycobacterial Diseases*: [Clinical and microbiological predictors of healing in Buruli ulcer disease.](#) Agbavor, B, et al. 6 January 2024
 - *eClinicalMedicine*: [Impaired lung function in adolescents with pulmonary tuberculosis during treatment and following treatment completion.](#) van der Zalm, M M, et al. 3 January 2024

- *Frontiers in Immunology*: [Identification of conserved cross-species B-cell linear epitopes in human malaria: a subtractive proteomics and immuno-informatics approach targeting merozoite stage proteins](#). Musundi SD, et al. 1 January 2024
- *Microorganisms*: [A Perspective on the Strategy for Advancing ETVAX®, An Anti-ETEC Diarrheal Disease Vaccine, into a Field Efficacy Trial in Gambian Children: Rationale, Challenges, Lessons Learned, and Future Directions](#). Hossain, M J, et al. 31 December 2023
- *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine* : [SARS-CoV-2 viral replication persists in the human lung for several weeks after symptom onset](#). Tomasicchio, M, et al. 7 March 2023
- *Frontiers in Tropical Diseases* : [Limited genetic variations of the Rh5-CyRPA-Ripr invasion complex in Plasmodium falciparum parasite population in selected malaria-endemic regions, Kenya](#). Waweru, H, et al. 1 March 2023
- *AIDS Research and Therapy*: [Affordable drug resistance genotyping of HIV-1 reverse transcriptase, protease and integrase genes, for resource limited settings](#). Manyana, M, et al. 9 February 2023
- *The Journal of Clinical Investigation*: [A randomized first-in-human Phase 1 trial of differentially adjuvanted Pfs48/45 malaria vaccines in Burkina Faso adults](#). Tiono, BA, et al. 30 January 2023
- *Wellcome Open Research*: [Mortality among non-severely under nourished children with pneumonia globally: protocol for a systematic review and meta-analysis](#). Nalwanga, D, et al. 1 January 2023

Resources



[Collaborative clinical R&D](#)
online



[Clinical research capacity](#)
PDF



[Fellowships](#)
online

- EDCTP | [Knowledge Hub: Tools and guidance for conducting clinical research](#)
- EDCTP | [Alumni Network](#)
- 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](#)
- PACTR | [Open access clinical trial registry](#)
- PAVIA project | [PV strengthening blue-print](#)

Training and funding opportunities

Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program | Deadline for application: 4 March 2024

The Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program (CADFP) is a fellowship program for African institutions in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and member institutions of the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) and partner universities with the Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA) to host an African-born scholar to work on projects in research collaboration, graduate student teaching/mentoring and curriculum co-development.

[More information »](#)

Caroline Miles Visiting Scholarship | Deadline for application: 21 April 2024

The Caroline Miles Visiting Scholarships are awarded to post-doctoral or early-career researchers to enable them to spend up to a month at the Ethox Centre working on a topic relating to one of the Centre's four main research areas: global health ethics; clinical ethics; public health ethics; and research ethics.

[More information »](#)

MRC/FCDO African Research Leaders call for proposals | Deadline for application: 24 April 2024

The Medical Research Council (MRC) UK has launched a further call to support 'rising star' African Research Leaders. This is a prestigious award, jointly funded by the MRC and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). The scheme aims to strengthen research leadership across sub-Saharan Africa by attracting and retaining exceptionally talented individuals who will lead high-quality programmes of research on key global health issues pertinent to the region and beyond. As part of the scheme, the African Research Leader should be supported by a strong linkage with a UK partner.

[More information »](#)

NIH International Research Ethics Education and Curriculum Development Award | Deadline for application: 6 June 2024

The International Research Ethics Education and Curriculum Development Award supports curriculum development for master's level courses at institutions in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) including courses for skill development, including practicum experiences; and mentoring activities.

[More information »](#)

NIH International Bioethics Research Training Program | Deadline for application: 6 June 2024

The International Bioethics Research Training Program supports LMIC-U.S. collaborative institutional bioethics doctoral and postdoctoral research training programs that incorporate didactic, mentored research and career development components to prepare trainees for positions of scholarship and leadership at health research institutions in LMICs.

[More information »](#)

Mark your calendar

Launch of the Pandemic PACT programme | 20 March 2024

On 20 March 2024, a special hybrid event 'Navigating Tomorrow: Lessons Learnt from the Pandemic and Enhancing Future Preparedness' hosted by the Pandemic Sciences Institute, University of Oxford, and the Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GloPID-R) will mark the official launch of the Pandemic Analytical Capacity and Funding Tracking Programme ([Pandemic PACT](#)). Pandemic PACT is an innovative new programme to track data about research funding and evidence for a wide range of diseases with outbreak potential and broader preparedness activities, in alignment with the WHO priority diseases. Its development has been co-funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) (CSA2022GloPID-R -3387) using UK Aid from the UK Government to support global health research, as part of the EDCTP2 Programme

supported by the European Union. EDCTP will be represented at the event by Lara Pandya, Strategic Partnerships (North) and Communications Manager, who will also attend the Pandemic PACT Advisory Group meeting immediately preceding the launch event.

[More information »](#)

International Conference on HIV Treatment, Pathogenesis, and Prevention Research (INTEREST) | 14-17 May 2024

The 18th International Conference on HIV Treatment, Pathogenesis, and Prevention Research (INTEREST) will take place from 14-17 May 2024 in Cotonou, Benin. The annual INTEREST Conference is the premier scientific conference for HIV in Africa and brings together scientists involved in HIV treatment, pathogenesis, and prevention research from around the world. The conference will showcase cutting-edge knowledge in the diagnosis and treatment of HIV and the prevention of the HIV-1 infection. Additionally, it will continue to foster the building of a community of African physicians and scientists to facilitate the implementation of local solutions for the management of patients living with HIV-1 infection and for the prevention of HIV transmission. The deadline for abstract submission is 2 February 2024.

[More information »](#)

World Congress of Epidemiology | 24-27 September 2024

The World Congress of Epidemiology (WCE2024) will take place in Cape Town, South Africa from 24-27 September 2024. The theme of WCE2024 is "Epidemiology and complexity: challenges and responses" which will engage the full depth and breadth of methods and practice in contemporary epidemiology. The meeting will feature invited speakers presenting plenary lectures, workshops and interactive sessions. The conference invites submission of abstracts for oral or poster presentations showcasing novel research in epidemiology and public health (general abstract submission deadline: 16 February 2023).

[More information »](#)

EDCTP Communications thanks everyone who provided information for this Update.



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