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Highlights



From research to elimination: EDCTP2's impact in the fight against NTDs

Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are among the world's most common and debilitating conditions. They affect millions of people—especially the poorest and most vulnerable—and hinder the growth and development of countless children in sub-Saharan Africa.

Under the EDCTP2 programme, the EDCTP Association has worked with global partners to help end NTDs. These collaborations have translated into concrete advances in the control and elimination of these diseases.

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Europe–Africa partnerships in health research from 2014 to 2023: Outputs and lessons learnt

A new analysis of publications acknowledging EDCTP2 funding between 2014 and 2023 offers insights into what equitable Europe–Africa health research collaboration looks like in practice. The study shows strong African leadership in EDCTP2-supported research. Sub-Saharan African researchers are authors on 86% of the publications, and in 71% of these, they are the senior (first or last) author. The findings also highlight improvements in gender balance. Women account for around 40% of co-authors, and one-third of the publications are led by women from sub-Saharan Africa.

The impact goes well beyond journal articles. EDCTP2-supported projects have contributed to policy and practice while building sustainable research capacity in African institutions. Taken together, these findings suggest that EDCTP supports a more equitable model of global health collaboration than many traditional funding mechanisms.

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EDCTP Association as coordinator of Global Health EDCTP3 projects

Two calls for proposals in the Global Health EDCTP3 2026 Work Programme are based on lump sum funding. For these calls, applicants may opt to include the EDCTP Association as the coordinator of the application. As coordinator, the EDCTP Association can provide technical support in preparing the proposal, especially considering the lump sum nature of the Grant Agreement. The Association can also offer further guidance and project management if the project is awarded.

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2026 Info Days: Global Health EDCTP3 call for proposals

Three information sessions will be held to support applicants in preparing proposals for the 2026 Global Health EDCTP3 calls.

On 5 February 2026, Global Health EDCTP3 will host an Info Day to present the calls for proposals under the Work Programme 2026 and provide guidance on how to develop a strong project proposal. [Register now to participate.](#)

On 12 February 2026, the Clinical Research and Biomedical Innovation Agency (AICIB) will organise a session about the calls for proposals targeted at the Lusophone community. [Register to participate.](#)

On 25 February 2026, the EDCTP Association will host an information session on the two Global Health EDCTP3 calls based on lump sum funding. [Register to participate.](#)

Recent events



ADVAC Scientific Committee meeting

Dr Pauline Beattie, EDCTP Association Operations Manager & Scientific Manager, participated in the Advanced Course of Vaccinology (ADVAC) scientific committee meeting held in Paris on 22-23 January 2026. The scientific committee evaluated applications submitted for ADVAC 2026. The EDCTP Association, with funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), will provide up to ten scholarships to support scientists from sub-Saharan Africa to attend ADVAC 2026 at Les Pensières Center for Global Health, France.

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EDCTP2 project news



VITALITY project: Protecting bone health in young people living with HIV

Young people living with HIV often face musculoskeletal issues due to the virus itself and long-term antiretroviral therapy. The VITALITY project tested whether vitamin D3 and calcium carbonate supplements could improve bone strength, muscle mass, and immune function in young people (8-16 years).

Among participants who began the study with low vitamin D levels, those receiving supplements showed a 41% greater increase in spine bone mineral apparent density over one year than those not receiving supplements. Researchers estimate this reduced fracture risk by 10% over the same period, with likely additional long-term benefits.

Because vitamin D3 and calcium carbonate are safe, low-cost, and widely available, this approach could help protect bone health during adolescence—a key period of rapid growth—and support better lifelong outcomes. Read the full article to learn more.

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PERFECT Study: Final workshop shares key lessons for epidemic preparedness

On 30 December 2025, the final dissemination workshop of the PERFECT Study took place in Yaoundé, Cameroon. Discover how their findings—from rapid testing innovations to practical lab preparedness lessons—could shape the region's response to future epidemics and pandemics.

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IMPALA project: systematic review published by PhD student

IMPALA PhD student William Nkhono has authored what may be the first systematic review of machine learning models for hospitalised children in low- and middle-income countries. Published in *eClinicalMedicine*, a high-impact *Lancet Discovery Science* journal, the review establishes an important baseline for initiatives such as IMPALA. The IMPALA project aims to deliver new tools for monitoring children's vital signs that are suitable for use in low-resource settings. Read the full article to explore the findings and what they mean for the future of child health in low-resource settings.

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MTBVACN3 project marks key milestone in Madagascar

On 16 December 2025, the Pasteur Institute of Madagascar (IPM) held an official ceremony to mark an important milestone: the completion of participant recruitment for the study in Madagascar. The final results of the MTBVACN3 trial will be communicated at a later stage, once the entire large-scale trial has been completed across all participating sub-Saharan African countries. MTBVACN3 project aims to evaluate the protective efficacy, safety, and immunogenicity of the MTBVAC vaccine in newborns, including those exposed to HIV but uninfected. By strengthening research infrastructure and collaboration through this equipment handover, MTBVACN3 contributes to advancing TB vaccine research and public health in Madagascar.

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LEAP4WA's five-year journey toward a Lassa fever vaccine in West Africa

Over the past five years, the LEAP4WA project has united a unique multidisciplinary network of seven leading research institutions across Africa, Europe, and North America to

lay the groundwork for the late-stage development of an effective and accessible Lassa fever vaccine for West Africa, a region where the disease remains a serious public health threat. Through this collaboration, LEAP4WA has made important progress in strengthening research capacity, supporting community engagement, and promoting the dissemination of scientific knowledge.

The final edition of the LEAP4WA newsletter highlights the latest updates across capacity strengthening, community engagement, and dissemination activities, marking an important milestone in this multi-year collaborative journey.

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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 compliance with EDCTP grant requirements to make publications openly accessible as soon as possible. [Submit your manuscript through Europe PMC Plus](#).

- Plos Neglected Tropical Diseases: [Assessment of the efficacy and safety of two albendazole regimens for the treatment of hypermicrofilaraemic loiasis in adults in Woleu-Ntem Province, Gabon: A phase IIb single-blind randomised controlled trial](#). M'Bondoukwé NP, et al. 20 January 2026
- BMC Infectious Diseases: [Pre-COVID-19 ex vivo cross-reactive IFN- \$\gamma\$ cellular response to SARS-CoV-2 spike overlapping peptides is more prevalent among Kenyan compared to Swedish adults](#). Wanjiku P, et al. 17 January 2026
- Open Forum Infectious Disease: [Molecular Surveillance of Malaria in Nigeria Reveals a Low Frequency of Antimalarial Resistance Markers and Clonal Expansion of Chloroquine-Sensitive Infections](#). Ajibaye O, et al. 16 January 2026
- Lancet (London, England): [Low-dose yellow fever vaccination in infants: a randomised, double-blind, non-inferiority trial](#). Kimathi D, et al. 13 January 2026
- Trials: [A phase I/II randomized controlled clinical trial to assess the feasibility, safety, and preliminary effectiveness of paracetamol in resolving acute kidney injury in children with severe malaria](#). Paasi G, et al. 9 January 2026
- Inquiry: [Prevalence and Determinants of Depression Among Adolescent Girls and Young Women at Risk of HIV in Urban Slums of Kampala](#). Amanyire P, et al. 9 January 2026
- BMC Infectious Diseases; [Epidemiological characteristics of people living with HIV on antiretroviral therapy \(ART\) in Pointe-Noire, Republic of Congo](#). Elenga Ike AM, et al. 8 January 2026
- Eclinicalmedicine: [Machine learning for predicting clinical outcomes of hospitalised children: a systematic review of applications in low- and middle-income countries](#). Nkhono W, 8 January 2026
- BMC Veterinary Research: [Prevalence and antibiogram of Staphylococcus aureus isolates in bovine raw milk from small-scale farmers in Magu district, Mwanza, Tanzania](#). Ngassa DR, et al. 6 January 2026
- Nature Medicine: [Malaria vaccine protection against intradermal or venous parasites: a randomized phase 2b human challenge trial](#). Kapulu MC, et al. 6 January 2026
- The Journal of adolescent health: [Effect of Perinatally Acquired HIV Infection on Cognitive Function and Educational Attainment in Adolescents in the Era of Antiretroviral Therapy: A Cross-sectional Study in Zimbabwe](#). Shears A, et al. 29 December 2025
- PloS one: [Validation of anthropometric-based weight prediction equations among Ugandan adults: A Cross-sectional study](#). Mukasa Z, et al. 26 December 2025
- BMC infectious diseases: [Characterization of Plasmodium falciparum infections among people living with HIV under antiretroviral and co-trimoxazole](#)

- [chemoprophylaxis in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo](#). Djontu JC, et al. 24 December 2025
- BMJ Global Health: [Eight-year tuberculosis epidemic trends in the Republic of Congo, a high TB burden country: progress and gaps towards end-TB targets](#). Mouzinga FH, et al. 19 December 2026
 - PloS one: [Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex lineages and drug resistance patterns among tuberculosis patients with or without diabetes mellitus in southern Ghana](#). Danso EK, et al. 15 December 2025
 - Journal of Global Antimicrobial Resistance: [Undetected rifampicin-resistant tuberculosis associated with rpoB I491F and V170F mutations in Botswana: Diagnostic implications](#). Mogashoa T, et al. 12 December 2025
 - The Lancet. Child & Adolescent Health: [Impact of high-dose vitamin D and calcium carbonate supplementation on bone density in adolescents living with HIV: a randomised, placebo-controlled trial](#). Ferrand RA, et al. 11 December 2025
 - AIDS Research and Therapy: [Prevalence and factors associated with frailty among older adults with and without HIV in Kampala, Uganda](#). Mbabazi P, et al. 8 December 2025
 - PLOS Global Public Health: ["I live with pain, it cannot go away": Lived experiences of childhood and adolescent pulmonary tuberculosis survivors - a qualitative study](#). Nkereuwem E, et al. 4 December 2025
 - Tropical Medicine and Health: [Prevalence of schistosome infection among children under two years of age: a brief report from medium-to-high endemic regions of Schistosoma mansoni in Madagascar](#). Kislaya I, et al. 4 December 2025
 - PLOS Global Public Health: [Large-scale field application of a fingerstick blood test for Mycobacterium leprae infection: Monitoring population-wide effects of case finding and post-exposure prophylaxis on transmission in the Comoros and Madagascar](#). Pierneef L, et al. 2 December 2025
 - Frontiers in Public Health: [Barriers and facilitators of integrating cervical cancer screening into routine HIV care and acceptability of self-sampling for HPV DNA testing among people with HIV: an exploratory study in southern Ghana](#). Bonney EY, et al. 1 December 2025
 - PLOS Global Public Health: [Using the health belief model to examine adolescent participation in HIV prevention research in Kampala, Uganda: A qualitative study](#). Nabalwany Z, et al. 1 December 2025
 - Frontiers in Public Health: [A qualitative study of peer education experiences and oral pre-exposure prophylaxis use among adolescent girls and young women at high risk of HIV acquisition in Kampala, Uganda](#). Mayanja Y, et al. 27 November 2025
 - Pathogens: [Common Molecular Detection of the Neglected Human Malaria Parasite Among Febrile Patients in Southern Regions in Senegal](#). Sambe BS, et al. 25 November 2025
 - BMC Genomic Data: [Cohort profile: the pharmacogenomics and pharmacokinetics study in Ghanaian HIV patients \(GenoPharm-GH\)](#). Thomford NE, et al. 24 November 2025
 - One Health: [Is it feasible to develop a one health surveillance system in a fragile state? The case of Guinea-Bissau](#). Fernandes FOL, et al. 11 November 2025

Resources

- EDCTP | [Knowledge Hub: Tools and guidance for conducting clinical research](#)
- EDCTP | [Alumni Network](#)
- ERUDIT | [Planning for Financial Sustainability manual](#)
- TRUST project | [A Global Code of Conduct for Equitable Research Partnerships](#)
- PACTR | [Open access clinical trial registry](#)
- PAVIA project | [PV strengthening blue-print](#)
- PREPARED | [Free training materials on research ethics](#)
- WHO-TDR | [Global Health Matters podcast](#)

Training and funding opportunities

SAHRI Fellowship Program: advancing Africa's future in infectious disease research leadership

The SAHRI Fellowship Program is a three-year training programme for 12 mid-career biomedical and clinical researchers from sub-Saharan Africa, designed to develop future leaders in infectious disease research and innovation. Funded by Global Health EDCTP3, it offers a research-focused MSc in Tropical Medicine, an internship at BioNTech, hands-on placements at leading African research institutions, and a structured return-home implementation phase. Applications are open until 1 February 2026.

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Oxford Global Health and Bioethics International Conference: call for abstracts

The Oxford Global Health & Bioethics International Conference will be held on 15–16 July 2026. It will bring together the global health bioethics community and provide a platform to share research, exchange ideas, and build collaborations. This year's conference will focus on the most pressing ethical issues in global health policy, practice, and research—those requiring sustained and substantial attention from researchers, funders, and policymakers. The call for abstracts is now open, with a submission deadline of 2 February 2025.

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Mark your calendar

Global Health EDCTP3 Info Day 2026 | 5 February 2026

The Global Health EDCTP Info Day 2026 will take place online on 5 February 2026, from 9:00 to 13:00, CET. Representatives from Global Health EDCTP3 and the EDCTP Association will present the six research call topics, clarify legal and financial issues and respond to questions from the audience.

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RHInno Ethics v4.0 launch event | 24 February 2026

EthiXPERT NPC will host the official launch of RHInno Ethics v4.0, an important milestone for ethics review and regulatory oversight in Africa. The launch will be preceded by a panel discussion in which Dr Thomas Nyirenda, Strategic Partnerships & Capacity Development Manager and Head of Africa Office

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Information session: EDCTP Association as Coordinator of Global Health EDCTP3 projects (2026) | 25 February 2026

The EDCTP Association will organise an information session to provide information about the Global Health EDCTP3 calls for proposals, grants based on lump sum funding, and the Association's role as coordinator of Global Health EDCTP3 proposals.

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9th World Conference on Research Integrity | 3-6 May 2026

The 9th World Conference on Research Integrity will be held in Vancouver, Canada, from 3-6 May 2026. Open to all disciplines and career stages, the WCRI engages universities, research institutes, funders, publishers, and governments in lively discussions. The programme features a mix of research findings, reflections, and policy development. Abstract submissions are invited on all areas of research integrity, with a focus on Artificial Intelligence, Research Security, and Indigenous Knowledge Systems. The submission deadline is 15 October 2025.

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18th World Congress of Bioethics (WCB) of the International Association of Bioethics | 8-10 July 2026

The Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics will host the 18th World Congress of Bioethics (WCB) from 8-10 July 2026 in Johannesburg, South Africa. This marks the first time the Congress is held in Africa, supported by leaders from various African countries through the Congress Africa Committee. The theme is "Comforting and Disturbing Bioethics," and will include full and short oral presentations, posters, workshops, and panel sessions.

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EDCTP Communications thanks everyone who provided information for this Update.





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