



EDCTP Update | December 2024



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2024 End of the year message from Mr Abdoulie Barry, Acting Executive Director



EDCTP

2024 End of the year message

As we approach the end of 2024 and look forward to celebrating Christmas and New Year with our families and friends, it is important to look back and highlight what we have been able to achieve together this year.

Abdoulie Barry

Acting Executive Director & Director of Finance and Administration



As we approach the end of 2024 and look forward to celebrating Christmas and New Year with our families and friends, it is important to look back and highlight what we have been able to achieve together this year.

[Read the full message »](#)

Global Health EDCTP3 publishes Work Programme 2025

2025 Work Programme

€214 million

4 calls for proposals

7 topics

Global Health
EDCTP3

Global Health EDCTP3 published its [Work Programme 2025](#), the largest and most ambitious Work Programme since the launch of the programme in 2021. The Work Programme includes four calls for proposals covering seven topics, for a total budget of EUR 214 million. The calls will support a range of Research and Innovation Actions (RIA) aimed at developing novel vaccines and therapeutics for tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases. Additionally, Coordination and Support Actions (CSA) will strengthen the enabling environment for conducting clinical research in Africa, through fellowships in public health with an emphasis on biostatistics, epidemiology, and modelling, as well as through regional networks of excellence for preparedness and response to outbreaks.

The calls for proposals will open in late January 2025.

[Read more »](#)

Twelfth EDCTP Forum: call for abstracts, scientific symposia, and sponsorship opportunities



From 15-20 June 2025, the Twelfth EDCTP Forum will take place in Kigali, Rwanda. Under the theme '**Better health through global research partnerships**', the Twelfth EDCTP Forum is hosted by the [Ministry of Health of Rwanda](#) and the [Rwanda Biomedical Centre](#), and jointly organised by [Global Health EDCTP3](#) and the [EDCTP Association](#).

A call for abstracts and scientific symposia is currently open, and sponsorship opportunities are now also available. We invite you to read the following information carefully:

Call for abstracts

The EDCTP Forum Programme Committee invites submission of abstracts for oral or poster presentations of original contributions on innovations and impact in global health research, relevant to the scope of Global Health EDCTP3 [Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda](#). Researchers working on projects supported under EDCTP2, Global Health EDCTP3 and other related Horizon Europe programmes are encouraged to use this opportunity to share new developments and results from their projects. We also welcome submissions from stakeholders working worldwide on health research in Africa. The deadline for abstract submission is **23 February 2025**.

[More information »](#)

Call for scientific symposia

The EDCTP Forum Programme Committee invites applications for scientific symposia to be held in person at the Twelfth EDCTP Forum. Integrated within the conference programme, symposia provide an opportunity to present a topic of important relevance to the Global Health EDCTP3 [Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda](#) and the Forum theme to a wide range of stakeholders. The deadline for submission is **23 February 2025**.

[More information »](#)

Sponsorship opportunities

Sponsorship opportunities at the Twelfth EDCTP Forum aim to profile and raise the visibility of organisations working in the same field as Global Health EDCTP3. We invite you to browse through the various sponsorship items and packages on our Forum website.

[More information »](#)

Forum programme at a glance

The programme at a glance provides an overview of the session types of the Twelfth EDCTP Forum which includes plenary sessions, parallel sessions and scientific symposia, workshops, poster presentations, and more.

[More information »](#)

EDCTP Prizes

The EDCTP Prizes recognise outstanding individuals and research teams from Africa and Europe who have made significant achievements in their research fields. A total of 7 EDCTP Prizes will be awarded at the Twelfth EDCTP Forum. Nominations to EDCTP Prizes will open in February 2025.

[More information »](#)

Registrations will open in January 2025. Visit the [Twelfth EDCTP Forum website](#) for more information.

EDCTP and Africa CDC collaborative initiative survey report



EDCTP and Africa CDC publish survey report with insights from fellows and participating training institutions of the 'Epi-Biostat' collaborative initiative.

The EDCTP-Africa CDC 'Epi-Biostat' initiative was designed to build skills in epidemiology and biostatistics in sub-Saharan Africa to strengthen the capacity of countries to monitor and respond to the spread of infectious diseases and emerging outbreaks. A recent survey conducted by EDCTP and Africa CDC to gather insights from fellows and participating training institutions showed overall satisfaction with the programme and reported that fellows are making significant contributions to public health practice during and after the programme. The survey report also provides recommendations that are relevant for future programmes.

[Read more »](#)

World AIDS Day 2024: Supporting innovative research to end inequality



EDCTP2's investments in HIV research

€132 M

In 73 projects on HIV awarded to date.



€115.55 M

to support 20 projects with collaborative clinical trials and clinical studies conducted by European-African consortia.



€5.49 M

to support 4 projects that facilitate the translation of research results of medical interventions into policies and practices for national health programmes.



€11 M

to support 49 fellowships that focus on the career development of individual researchers.



Supported by the European Union



On World AIDS Day, EDCTP joined partners in raising awareness of the remaining challenges in identifying and treating cases and preventing new HIV infections. One of these challenges is ensuring that HIV/AIDS prevention and care reach those who need them most, especially priority populations, such as infants, children, pregnant and lactating women, and all those who face stigma, discrimination, marginalisation, criminalisation, and other barriers to access to care.

[Read more »](#)

EDCTP prize awarded to THRU-Zim used to support early career researchers and research support staff involved in clinical studies



In 2023, the Health Research Unit Zimbabwe ([THRU-Zim](#)) received the [EDCTP Outstanding Research Team Prize](#) and has used the cash prize of €50,000 to invest in the capacity development of early career researchers and the professional development of research support staff (administrators, governance and finance officers, research nurses and assistants) in Zimbabwe, who are integral in making research studies a success.

Recent events

EDCTP site visit to Zambia



Dr Thomas Nyirenda, Strategic Partnerships & Capacity Development Manager and Head of the Africa Office, Sayma Siddiqui, Grants Finance Officer, and Dr Johanna Schaefer, Project Officer, from the EDCTP Association, visited four projects implemented in Lusaka, Zambia, from 10-13 December 2024. XACT III and XACT 19 are two research and innovation projects on active case-finding interventions for TB, implemented at ZAMBART in Lusaka, where the EDCTP team met with local lead Professor Helen Ayles and her team. EDCTP also visited the University Teaching Hospital (UTH) in Lusaka, a site where the VITALITY trial was implemented, which studied the effect of vitamin D and calcium carbonate supplements on bone and muscle development in children living with HIV. The EDCTP team met with local lead Dr Lackson Kasonka and his team. At UTH, the EDCTP team also met with Dr Duncan Chanda, local lead of the Trials of Excellence in Southern Africa (TESA) Regional Network of Excellence.

Workshop series: Implementing the AU-EU Innovation Agenda



WORKSHOP SERIES

Implementing the AU-EU Innovation Agenda

3

Public Health Innovations
3rd December 2024
Pretoria (South Africa) & Online

#AUEU #InnovationAgenda #PositiveAgenda #MakingItHappen #ItsHappening

In 2023 the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU) adopted the new joint [AU-EU Innovation Agenda](#), which aims to transform and increase the innovative capacities and achievements of European and African researchers and innovators into tangible outputs, such as products, services, businesses and jobs. The agenda focuses on Public Health, Green Transition, Innovation and Technology, and Capacities for Science all of which are featured on its [Global Gateway](#).

On 3 December 2024, a Public Health Innovations Workshop was organised as part of 2024 South African Science Forum held at Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in Pretoria. This third edition of the [workshop series on the implementation of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda](#) aimed to provide insights on the impact and perspectives of innovations in Public Health as part of the implementation of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda. Dr Thomas Nyirenda, Strategic Partnerships & Capacity Development Manager and Head of Africa Office, EDCTP Association, gave a presentation about the Global Health EDCTP3 Work Programmes 2024 and 2025, and how EDCTP provides an opportunity for engagement between European and African scientists in the fight against infectious diseases in line with EU-AU global health priorities and targets.

EDCTP-ICGEB training: boosting biomanufacturing in Africa



From 18-29 November 2024, selected participants from 4 regions (and 10 countries) in Africa received personalised training in bioprocessing techniques in the Biotechnology

Development Unit at the [International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology \(ICGEB\)](#) in Trieste, Italy. The training was part of a collaboration between EDCTP and ICGEB and supported by the National Institute for Health ([NIHR](#)), with international development funding from the UK Government, [Department of Health and Social Care](#).

The [training](#) was aimed at academics, technicians, engineers, and managers based at the EDCTP Regional Networks of Excellence ([CANTAM](#), [WANETAM](#), [EACCR](#), and [TESA](#)) with a background in life sciences and limited experience in bioprocessing. It focused on increasing insight and experience in Quality Management Systems and Good Manufacturing Practice standards in the biopharmaceutical industry and product-oriented training processes, with the ultimate goal of contributing to consolidating knowledge infrastructure and health research in Africa.

ICGEB is an intergovernmental organisation to provide the international community with a Centre of excellence for research, training, and technology transfer in the field of genetic engineering and biotechnology, supporting its Member States in the progress towards achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. On 8 December 2022, the EDCTP Association signed a five-year memorandum of understanding with ICGEB to encourage and promote cooperation in the following areas of mutual interest covered by this MOU: bringing high-level genomic engineering technology into EDCTP-funded networks in sub-Saharan Africa for optimising the fight against poverty-related infectious diseases; joint activities in capacity development related to the development of interventions against these diseases; and co-funding of projects covering areas of mutual interest, where applicable.

In the first two years of their cooperation, both EDCTP and ICGEB have participated in each other's strategic events, promoted the visibility of each party's activities in sub-Saharan Africa, and supported institutions and countries that are strategic in realising the mutual benefit agreed upon by both parties. The concluded training funded by In-Kind Additional Activity (IKAA) from the United Kingdom contributed to fulfilling these joint objectives.

EDCTP2 project news

PROFORMA project closure symposium

PROFORMA PROJECT CLOSURE SYMPOSIUM

Strengthening Pharmacovigilance and
Post-Marketing Surveillance in East Africa



The [PROFORMA project](#) has concluded after six impactful years of strengthening pharmacovigilance regulatory capacity in East Africa. To commemorate this milestone and celebrate its achievements – including the graduation of five new PhD doctors trained through the project and the publication of over 25 original research articles – the project organised a closure symposium on 19 December 2024 in Stockholm, Sweden. Dr Thomas Nyirenda, Strategic Partnerships & Capacity Development Manager and Head of Africa Office, represented EDCTP at the symposium.

[Read more »](#)

PREPARED project: Research ethics and integrity challenges in fragile settings



The [PREPARED Project](#), of which EDCTP is a partner, is developing ethics guidance for research during crisis, with a focus on research in fragile settings. To ensure that the ethics guidance is informed as closely as possible by real-life experiences, the project is currently running an anonymous survey, which is based on a literature review. If you have undertaken research in a fragile setting, please consider taking part. The types of fragile settings we refer to include environments such as conflict or post-conflict zones, regions that recently experienced natural disasters; refugee camps under serious resource constraints; or high-crime settings such as high-crime informal settlements. We are not referring to pandemic settings. The primary objective of this survey is to inform the development of a new research ethics and integrity code that is applicable across a range of fragile settings. The survey closes at midnight (UK time) on 31 January 2025.

[Read more »](#)

PEP4LEP project publishes study on case detection delay tool



The recently concluded [PEP4LEP](#) project focused on identifying the most effective and feasible method for screening people at risk of developing leprosy and administering post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) in Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Tanzania. The project team also designed and validated a case detection delay assessment tool to determine the time interval between a patient's initial leprosy symptoms and the moment of diagnosis. Although early diagnosis of leprosy is crucial to minimize the risk for patients suffering from permanent disabilities, there is a lack of reliable tools to assess case detection delay. The tool designed here is suitable for use in both routine leprosy programmes and research settings. It includes a questionnaire, a set of clinical images of leprosy signs, and a body map. A recently [published study](#) confirmed the test-retest reliability and the measurement consistency of the tool. The tool is freely available [here](#).

Activities that started under the PEP4LEP are continuing as PEP4LEP 2.0 funded by the Global Health EDCTP3.

Fellow profile: Dr Joseph Fokam



EDCTP Career Development Fellow Dr Joseph Fokam has generated important data on the evolution of HIV infections and the emergence of drug resistance in adolescents living with HIV. In March 2024, Dr Fokam was appointed as the Lead-Person (Permanent Secretary) of the National AIDS Control program in Cameroon. In this interview, Dr Fokam tells us how his fellowship helped him to become a leader in his field, coordinate large collaborative research studies, and grow in his professional career.

[Read the interview »](#)

Fellow profile: Dr Moleen Dzikiti



In her Career Development Fellowship, Dr Moleen Dzikiti (South Africa) conducted a study to evaluate the effects of text messaging combined with motivational interviewing versus the standard-of-care on sustaining continued breastfeeding, as well as the contribution of the combined intervention on child health and survival outcomes, among women living with HIV and their infants. We asked Dr Dzikiti how her EDCTP Fellowship helped her to establish herself as a research leader in maternal and child health and HIV.

[Read the interview »](#)

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](#).

- Emerging Microbes & Infections: [Evaluation of waning of IgG antibody responses after rVSVΔG-ZEBOV-GP and Ad26.ZEBOV, MVA-BN-Filo Ebola virus disease vaccines: a modelling study from the PREVAC randomized trial](#). Valayer, S, et al. 9 December 2024
- Tropical medicine and health: [Variable effects of non-falciparum species infections on malaria disease severity in high transmission regions in Senegal](#). Diagne, A, et al. 4 December 2024

- BMC medicine: [Impact of HIV exposure without infection on hospital course and mortality among young children in sub-Saharan Africa: a multi-site cohort study.](#) Lwanga, C, et al. 3 December 2024
- Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety: [Determining Targets for Antiretroviral Drug Concentrations: A Causal Framework Illustrated With Pediatric Efavirenz Data From the CHAPAS-3 Trial.](#) Schomaker, M, et al. 1 December 2024
- Maria Journal: ["If they take it without knowing, they will default...": perceptions of targeted information transfer to promote adherence to intermittent preventive treatment with dihydroartemisinin-piperazine for the prevention of malaria in pregnancy in western Kenya.](#) Hoyt, J, et al. 29 November 2024
- Tropical Medicine and Health: [Distribution of Candida species isolated from people living with human immunodeficiency virus with oropharyngeal and oral candidiasis in Africa in the era of universal test and treat policy: a systematic review and meta-analysis.](#) Musinguzi, B, et al. 27 November 2024
- BMJ open: [Triage test for all-oral drug-resistant tuberculosis \(DR-TB\) regimen: a phase IV study to assess effectiveness, feasibility, acceptability and cost-effectiveness of the Xpert MTB/XDR assay for rapid triage and treatment of DR-TB.](#) Naidoo, K, et al. 27 November 2024
- HIV/AIDS (Auckland, N.Z.): [Sex Differences in the Prevalence of Geriatric Syndromes Among Older People Living with HIV Attending an Urban Outpatient Clinic in Kampala, Uganda.](#) Mbabazi, P, et al. 26 November 2024
- Open Forum Infectious Diseases: [Natural History of High-Risk Human Papillomavirus in Kenyan and South African Women: Implications for Vaccination Campaigns and Cervical Cancer Screening Programs.](#) Happel, A, et al. 22 November 2024
- International Journal of Biomedical Imaging: [Simple Imaging System for Label-Free Identification of Bacterial Pathogens in Resource-Limited Settings.](#) Douarre, C, et al. 19 November 2024
- International Journal for parasitology. Drugs and Drug Resistance: [Deep-amplicon sequencing of the complete beta-tubulin gene in Trichuris trichiura before and after albendazole treatment.](#) Gandasegui, J, et al. 12 November 2024
- IJTLD open: [Health-related quality of life in children with presumptive TB.](#) Anthony, MG, et al. 1 November 2024
- The Lancet. Global Health: [Schistosome and malaria exposure and urban-rural differences in vaccine responses in Uganda: a causal mediation analysis using data from three linked randomised controlled trials.](#) Natukunda, A, et al. 1 November 2024
- The Lancet. Global Health: [The effect of BCG revaccination on the response to unrelated vaccines in urban Ugandan adolescents \(POPVAC C\): an open-label, randomised controlled trial.](#) Nassuuna, J, et al. 1 November 2024
- The Lancet. Global Health: [The effect of intensive praziquantel administration on vaccine-specific responses among schoolchildren in Ugandan schistosomiasis-endemic islands \(POPVAC A\): an open-label, randomised controlled trial.](#) Nkurunungi, G, et al. 1 November 2024
- African Journal of Primary Health Care & Family Medicine: [Home visits for preterm/low birthweight infants in South Africa: Qualitative evidence synthesis.](#) Cooper, S, et al. 1 November 2024
- Frontiers in Microbiology: [Low prevalence of archived integrase strand transfer inhibitors resistance associated mutations in Botswana before the roll out of dolutegravir based first line antiretroviral therapy.](#) Maruapula, D, et al. 24 October 2024
- Frontiers in Genetics: [ONT sequencing identifies a high prevalence of crt sensitive, triple mutant dhfr and single mutant dhps parasites within an ANC population in Nigeria.](#) Adegbola, A, et al. 15 October 2024
- Viruses: [Hepatitis Delta Virus Clade 8 Is the Predominant Clade Circulating in Botswana amongst People Living with HIV.](#) Sadler, J, et al. 4 October 2024
- The Lancet. Global Health: [Delivery effectiveness of and adherence to intermittent preventive treatment for malaria in pregnancy with dihydroartemisinin-piperazine with or without targeted information transfer or sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine in western Kenya: a three-armed, pragmatic, open-label, cluster-randomised trial.](#) 1 October 2024
- Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes (1999): [HIV-1 Elite Controllers are Characterised by Elevated Levels of CD69-Expressing Natural Killer Cells.](#) Batohi, N, et al. 2 September 2024

- JAAD international: [Patients with severe cutaneous adverse drug reactions have extremely high hair cortisol concentrations that do not correlate with the presence of depression](#). Zitha, E, et al. 1 September 2024
- Frontiers in immunology: [Pre-vaccination Schistosoma mansoni and hookworm infections are associated with altered vaccine immune responses: a longitudinal analysis among adolescents living in helminth-endemic islands of Lake Victoria, Uganda](#). Natukunda, A, et al. 29 August 2024
- Malaria Journal: [Assessing the Therapeutic Efficacy of Artemether-Lumefantrine for Uncomplicated Malaria in Lagos, Nigeria: A Comprehensive Study on Treatment Response and Resistance Markers](#). Oyebola, K, et al. 28 August 2024
- Mbio: [Integration of genomic and pharmacokinetic data to predict clinical outcomes in HIV-associated cryptococcal meningitis](#). Stott, K, et al. 27 August 2024

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

IVCC call for proposals: How can we address the gaps in the vector control toolbox for malaria? | Deadline for applications: 16 December 2024

The Innovative Vector Control Consortium (IVCC) has launched a call for proposals to advance vector control tools for malaria by addressing the critical gaps in the existing toolbox. While current methods primarily target indoor mosquito behaviour, IVCC is looking for Proof of Concept (PoC) projects that target aspects of the mosquito lifecycle beyond indoor feeding and resting.

[More information »](#)

eLearning Course Relaunch: The Data Life Cycle: Practices and Policies

The Global Health Network is pleased to announce the update and relaunch of the previous Data Sharing course, now called 'The Data Life Cycle: Practices and Policies.' This course provides practical, up-to-date guidance on data management and sharing, addressing the challenges faced in this area. Each module, written by subject-matter experts and peer-reviewed, incorporates the latest references and best practices. All modules were reviewed and updated by the EDCTP Networks of Excellence Data Sharing Working Group.

[More information »](#)

Free course on Pandemic planning from OpenWHO

Drawing on lessons from recent events, WHO launched 'PRET - Preparedness and Resilience for Emerging Threats' to support countries in updating their pandemic plans. Building on the current global momentum, PRET applies a "mode of transmission lens." The first PRET module focuses on preparing for respiratory pathogens. Future modules will focus on other pathogen groups such as arthropod-borne viruses. This course describes the PRET integrated pandemic planning approach and provides an overview of the guidance and tools available to support countries in preparing for the next pandemic.

[More information »](#)

Mark your calendar

EDCTP events

Twelfth EDCTP Forum | 15-20 June 2025

The Twelfth EDCTP Forum will take place on 15-20 June 2025, at the Kigali Convention Centre in Kigali, Rwanda. The event will be hosted by the [Ministry of Health of Rwanda](#) and the [Rwanda Biomedical Centre](#), and jointly organised by [Global Health EDCTP3](#) and the [EDCTP Association](#). The theme for the 2025 Forum is "*Better health through global research partnerships*". Calls for submission of abstracts and scientific symposia are open, with a deadline of 23 February 2025. More information on the programme, registration, and sponsorship opportunities will be made available soon.

[More information »](#)

Other events

Webinar Series: Understanding Africa's Research Landscape and Open Communication Strategies | 5 February 2025

The Africa Bioethics Network (ABN) is launching its new Webinar Series: Promoting Science and Research Collaboration in Africa — a year-long program designed to foster impactful scientific partnerships across the continent. The first session of this series is on 'Understanding Africa's Research Landscape and Open Communication Strategies' and will take place on 5 February 2025 (virtually).

[More information »](#)

Oxford Global Health & Bioethics International Conference | 8-9 July 2025

The Oxford Global Health & Bioethics International Conference will take place on 8 and 9 July 2025, at the Mathematics Institute, University of Oxford, with selected sessions available online. The conference brings together the global health bioethics community, and provides a platform for sharing research, exchanging ideas, and building collaborations. The Call for Abstracts is now open. The deadline for submissions is Wednesday 5 February 2025.

[More information »](#)

EDCTP Communications thanks everyone who provided information for this Update.



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