

NIAID International Research Activities FY 2018 Sub-Saharan Africa Region

About NIAID

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), conducts and supports basic and clinical research to better understand, treat, and prevent infectious, immunologic, and allergic diseases. For more than 60 years, NIAID research has led to new therapies, vaccines, diagnostics, and preventive strategies that have improved the health of millions of people in the United States and around the world.



Countries With NIAID-Funded Research: Sub-Saharan Africa Region

Angola	Gabon	Mozambique
Benin	Gambia	Nigeria
Botswana	Ghana	Rwanda
Burkina Faso	Guinea	Senegal
Burundi	Guinea-Bissau	Sierra Leone
Cameroon	Kenya	South Africa
Comoros	Lesotho	Tanzania
Congo, Rep. of	Liberia	Togo
Congo (D.R.C.)	Madagascar	Uganda
Cote d'Ivoire	Malawi	Zambia
Eswatini	Mali	Zimbabwe
Ethiopia	Mauritius	

Selected Special Events

NIH Visitors

- Dennis Hankins, U.S. Ambassador Nominee to Mali
- Jacqueline Mikolo, Minister of Health, Republic of Congo, and Dr. Jean-Vivien Mombouli, National Laboratory for Public Health, Republic of Congo
- Robert Scott, U.S. Ambassador Nominee to Malawi
- Professor Adama Keita, Rector of the University of Sciences, Techniques, and Technologies of Bamako (USTTB), and Professor Mahamadou Diakite, USTTB, Mali
- International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) delegation from Angola

Regional Projects

NIAID supported research activities in 35 Sub-Saharan African countries with 340 research projects in fiscal year 2018. Total NIAID international health research funding in Sub-Saharan Africa was \$321 million.

Research Priorities

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), and malaria claim approximately 3 million lives in the region each year. Parasitic diseases, such as hookworm and schistosomiasis, also are prevalent, mostly among children, and cause hundreds of thousands of deaths and widespread suffering.



Selected NIAID Regional Programs

HIV/AIDS Clinical Trials Networks

- AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG)
- HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN)
- HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN)
- International Maternal Pediatric Adolescent AIDS Clinical Trials (IMPAACT) Network
- Microbicide Trials Network (MTN)

The **International Centers of Excellence for Malaria Research (ICEMR)** form a network of institutions conducting research to enhance malaria prevention and control in epidemic areas.

The **International Centers for Excellence in Research (ICER)** program conducts sustained research activities involving U.S. and local scientists in Mali and Uganda.

The **International epidemiology Databases to Evaluate AIDS (IeDEA)** consortium supports regional groups in conducting population-level effectiveness and implementation science research based on extremely large clinical databases of people with or at risk of HIV infection.

The **International Collaborations in Infectious Disease Research (ICIDR)** program establishes relationships between U.S. and foreign institutions to support the study of tropical medicine and emerging infectious diseases research.

The **U.S.-South Africa Program for Collaborative Biomedical Research** supports U.S. and South African scientists collaborating to conduct research on TB, HIV, and HIV-associated comorbidities, including cancer.

The **West African Clinical Research Consortium (WAC)** aims to strengthen clinical research capacity and foster regional collaborations. WAC activities focus on advancing regional preparedness for global health security, sharing regional research and best practices to inform infectious disease policy and ongoing research, and advancing new studies and policies in the region.

Regional Accomplishments and Other Successes

NIAID is at the forefront of research efforts to address the high disease burden in Africa and has had many notable successes in the region.

In FY 2018, the Partnership for Research on Ebola Vaccines in Liberia (PREVAIL) elected to change the

meaning of its name to Partnership for Research on Vaccines and Infectious Diseases.

This change reflects the growth and diversity of the research portfolio and strategic mission, which previously only focused on Ebola. PREVAIL is a collaboration between the Government of Liberia Ministry of Health and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), with NIAID appointed to represent HHS in Ebola research efforts.

Scientists at the NIAID ICERs in Mali and Uganda continue to conduct important research on a variety of infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS, malaria, and TB. The Mali ICER is conducting several vaccine trials aimed at preventing malaria infection in humans and blocking parasite transmission to the mosquito vector.

Selected NIAID-Supported Regional Science Advances

- Tenofovir gel can be used topically for pre-exposure prophylaxis to prevent HIV acquisition. A study in South Africa showed that genital inflammation can interfere with the effectiveness of tenofovir.
- A Phase 2 randomized clinical trial conducted in Mali showed that methylene blue dye, used in combination with primaquine is well tolerated and effective in preventing transmission of *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria.

NIAID Office of Global Research (OGR)

OGR facilitates and coordinates NIAID's international activities and collaborative research programs. OGR works closely with other NIH Institutes and Centers, HHS offices and agencies, and numerous foreign government agencies.

Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health
ATTN: NIAID Office of Global Research—
Holly Curtis, Regional Program Officer
5601 Fishers Lane, Room 1E41, MSC 9802
Bethesda, MD 20892-9802 USA
Tel: 301-496-0070, Fax: 301-480-2954
Email: niaidogrppc@niaid.nih.gov

Fatoumata Bathily, NIAID representative in West Africa
Email: fatoumata.bathily@nih.gov

