NIAID International Research Activities FY 2020
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.

Research Priorities

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

Regional Projects

NIAID supported 424 research projects in 34 Sub-Saharan African countries during fiscal year (FY) 2020 (Figure 1). Total NIAID international health research funding in Sub-Saharan Africa was $312 million.

Countries With NIAID-Funded Research

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

Selected Special Events

NIH Visitors

- International Visitor Leadership Program—Combating Infectious Diseases I and II (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Cote d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe)
- University of Sciences, Techniques, and Technology of Bamako (Mali)

Selected NIAID Regional Programs

The Centers for Research in Emerging Infectious Diseases (CREID) network is a coordinated group of emerging infectious disease research centers around the world. Multidisciplinary teams of investigators conduct pathogen/host surveillance, study pathogen transmission, examine pathogenesis and immunologic responses in the host, and develop reagents and diagnostic assays.
The COVID-19 Prevention Network (CoVPN) brings networks and global partners together to address the pressing need for vaccines and monoclonal antibodies against SARS-CoV-2. Partners include the HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN), HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN), the Infectious Diseases Clinical Research Consortium, and AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG).

The HIV/AIDS Clinical Trials Networks study critical questions related to HIV and AIDS through the ACTG, HPTN, HVTN, International Maternal Pediatric Adolescent AIDS Clinical Trials (IMPAACT) Network, and Microbicide Trials Network (MTN).

The International Centers of Excellence for Malaria Research (ICEMR) conduct research to enhance malaria prevention and control in epidemic areas.

The International Centers for Excellence in Research (ICER) conduct sustained research activities involving U.S. and local scientists in Mali and Uganda. Scientists conduct research on infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS, malaria, and TB.

The International epidemiology Databases to Evaluate AIDS (IeDEA) cohort consortium supports regional groups in population-level effectiveness and implementation 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 to support the study of tropical medicine and emerging infectious diseases research.

The Partnership of Clinical Research in Guinea (PREGUI) supports public health priorities in Guinea and builds sustainable research capacity.

The Partnership for Research on Ebola Virus in Liberia (PREVAIL) supports collaborative research on hemorrhagic fever viruses and other infectious diseases.

The U.S.-South Africa Program for Collaborative Biomedical Research supports collaborations between U.S. and South African scientists on research related to TB, HIV, and HIV-associated comorbidities, including cancer and other infectious diseases.

**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, offices and agencies of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and numerous foreign government agencies.

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Selected NIAID-Supported Science Advances

- An NIAID study that followed 1,814 pregnant women in Mali to provide baseline data for future malaria vaccine trials found that low gravidity and young age predicted perinatal death and preterm delivery. Prenatal care and pregnancy outcome information was collected using interviews, reviews of medical records, and physical examinations of newborns.

- NIAID supported a randomized controlled trial in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to test therapeutics for Ebola virus disease (EVD). The investigational therapeutics mAb114 and REGN-EB3 offered patients a greater chance of surviving EVD compared to the investigational treatment ZMapp.

- South Africa has a unique population of organ transplant recipients with HIV who have received organs from donors with HIV. NIAID-supported investigators conducted a study to evaluate renal transplantation outcomes in people with HIV who received organs from donors with HIV. They found that transplant patients had favorable clinical outcomes and did not show any signs of transmitted drug resistance.