

From Research to Resilience: How EDCTP delivers innovation, partnership and response capacity

Achievements of the Africa-Europe research partnership on infectious diseases, EDCTP.
AU–EU Research and Innovation Ministerial Meeting (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 27 October 2026)

EDCTP has invested more than **€1.7 billion** in grants across **840 projects in 74 countries**, supporting over **1,000 organisations**. EDCTP's core mission is to support excellent global collaborative research that develops **biomedical solutions to infectious diseases, while strengthening Africa's capacity to conduct clinical research**. This includes training scientists and reinforcing ethics, epidemiological and regulatory systems to build sustainable research and innovation ecosystems across the continent.

With **49 member countries**—16 European and 33 African—currently members of the EDCTP Association¹, EDCTP has mobilised a **further €2 billion in co-investment** from member states and contributing partners, amplifying the scale and sustainability of its impact. This means EDCTP has turned **every €1 of EU funding into nearly €2 of additional co-investment**, creating a sustainable engine for Africa-Europe health research cooperation.

EDCTP's success rests on three foundations: **scientific excellence, trusted partnerships and an unwavering focus on sustainable impact**—translating research into innovation, stronger capacities and more effective health policies that strengthen health security and resilience while supporting shared prosperity.

Accelerating life-saving innovations for the most neglected

Sixteen innovations supported by EDCTP have reached patients to date². This includes the **first vaccines against malaria**—piloted in Kenya, Ghana and Malawi, which reduced child mortality by 13% and malaria illness by more than half³. Since then, 25 African countries have included them into their routine immunisation⁴. EDCTP has also helped advance critical paediatric innovations, including **next-generation HIV regimens for pregnant mothers and lactating infants**, a highly effective **paediatric medicines for multiple worm infections**, the **first antimalarial medicine for newborns** that cannot yet be vaccinated, and the **first child medicines for schistosomiasis and river blindness**, included now in the WHO Essential Medicines List⁵ and Essential Medicines List for Children⁶. In addition, EDCTP has supported advanced **medicines for sleeping sickness**, now accounting for around 70% of all treatments, and for **HIV-associated cryptococcal meningitis**, the current WHO-recommended standard of care, as well as **portable TB diagnostics** enabling earlier detection and response, among others.

Building sustainable research capacities and ecosystems

EDCTP's impact is built on systems, not individual projects. **Five networks of excellence⁷, spanning 100 institutions across 32 countries in four African regional economic communities**, keep clinical and epidemiological capacity ready for outbreaks in Africa and have been deployed in **Ebola** (including the ongoing outbreak), **mpox and COVID-19 responses**. EDCTP also supported the creation of the **Pan African Clinical Trials Registry**—the first WHO-approved primary clinical trials registry in the continent—and the **African Vaccine Regulatory Forum**, strengthening national regulatory and ethics capacity across **37 African countries**, including by supporting the development of the ethics research codes TRUST and PREPARED⁸.

EDCTP is committed to supporting the operationalisation of the African Medicines Agency (AMA) and has formalised strategic partnerships with Africa CDC, WHO AFRO and other key regional actors. Finally, EDCTP investments are also strengthening research capacities across Africa: nearly **3,000 researchers and health professionals have received EDCTP support**, with 71% of EDCTP projects between 2014-2023 led by African researchers⁹.

Multiplying impact through equitable partnerships

EDCTP is grounded in public–public governance, with **European and African countries holding equal voting rights**, and is strengthened by public–private partnerships that co-invest in EDCTP projects, including the Gates Foundation, BioNTech, Novartis, GSK, CEPI, Wellcome and the Novo Nordisk Foundation, among many others.

EDCTP **continues to advance innovation where critical gaps remain¹⁰**—supporting the development of new vaccines, medicines and diagnostics for tuberculosis, lower respiratory infections and neglected infectious diseases; deepening our understanding of the interactions and coexistence of infectious and non-communicable diseases; and promoting the responsible and equitable use of AI and other technologies to deliver both scientific and health impact.

¹ General Assembly of the EDCTP Association - EDCTP

² New and better medical solutions - Global Health EDCTP3 - European Union

³ Malaria vaccines (RTS,S and R21)

⁴ Malaria vaccine support

⁵ WHO EML 23rd List (2023)

⁶ WHO EMLc 10th List (2025)

⁷ https://www.global-health-edctp3.europa.eu/funding/tools-and-resources-researchers_en/networks-of-excellence

⁸ The TRUST Code — Research equity gets a new name - PREPARED

⁹ EU-Africa partnerships in health research from 2014 to 2023: Outputs and lessons learnt - ScienceDirect

¹⁰ Our projects - Global Health EDCTP3 - European Union