



THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

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National Public Health Laboratories
Ministry of Health & Social Welfare
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Fax: 4414431

To The Chair of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking Governing Board
c/o Dr. Michael Makanga, Executive Director of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint
Undertaking
Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking
56 – 60 Avenue de la Toison d'Or
1060 Brussels
Belgium

August 25, 2025

Letter of endorsement by NPHL The Gambia

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of National Public Health Laboratories (NPHL), Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (PIC 987688048) Kotu, KMC, The Gambia, working with the National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) and in accordance with Council Regulation (EU) No 2085/2021 of 19th November 2021 establishing the joint undertakings under Horizon Europe and specifically Article 9 therein, I hereby submit an application to become a contributing partner to the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking (Global Health EDCTP3 JU).

The National Public Health Laboratories (NPHL) and NMCP program in The Gambia is leading malaria interventions and control towards elimination in collaboration with global partners. The NPHL is the leading public health clinical laboratory service in The Gambia, providing support to all public health facilities nation wide. Together, the NMCP and the NPHL share common objectives with the Global Health EDCTP JU in the following

Disease Burden Reduction: The primary goal of the NPHL is to collaborate with other public health bodies such as the National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) to reduce the socio-economic and individual burden of infectious diseases, malaria in particular, in The Gambia and the rest of sub-Saharan Africa by implementing new or improved health interventions.

Strengthening Research Capacity: In collaboration with the Medical Research Council Unit, The University of The Gambia and other international partners, we build and enhance research capability in The Gambia to conduct clinical trials and respond to infectious disease outbreaks and re-emerging diseases.

Health Security: Increasing health security by enhancing preparedness and response capacities to infectious diseases, including antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in The Gambia, sub-Saharan Africa and globally.

Policy and Practice Impact: To generate evidence that informs public health policies and guidelines, ensuring research findings are translated into tangible improvements in health systems and practices.

Sustainable Partnerships: Fostering a culture of scientific collaboration and partnerships between African and European countries, promoting knowledge sharing, mentorship, and the development of local research leadership.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship: To encourage innovation, entrepreneurship, and the creation of new health products and services within The Gambia.

Health Equity: Promoting equity in the research process by addressing disparities in health research between genders and across different linguistic boundaries like working with Guinea



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Bissau.

Alignment with Global Goals: To contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG3), ensuring healthy lives and well-being for all, and align with broader health initiatives, such as the EU's Global Health Strategy.

The NPHL in collaboration with the NMCP will ensure the delivery of the molecular surveillance and all clinical components of the E-STAR grant. We already have a strong collaboration with the MRCG at LSHTM to delivery genomic surveillance of malaria (GSM) in The Gambia and across the sub-region. In the E-STAR we will continue to support this process, facilitating access to clinics, availing our facilities and staff for sample generations and coordinating collections for molecular surveillance. We have capacity for malaria PCR testing and We are also collaborating in clinical trails for malaria vaccines, R21 and RTS,S, as well as mass drug trials. These experiences will be valuable for the delivery of the E-STAR main study and the MMSART sub-sudy.

We estimate the total value of this contribution to be EUR150,000 over the 60months period of the E-STAR project. This amount corresponds to in-kind and financial contributions from the following malaria resistance surveillance, adaptive clinical trials, and diagnostic validation. Specifically, the NPHL will provide access to laboratories, clinical units, storage facilities, sample transport systems, and IT infrastructure; basic equipment and consumables necessary for diagnostics and sample processing; and the use of established standard operating procedures (SOPs) and regulatory frameworks.

The contribution is spread across all project components, with direct relevance to molecular surveillance, adaptive clinical trials, POC validation, pharmacovigilance, and policy translation.

By embedding this project in existing MoH structures, this in-kind contribution ensures national ownership, sustainability, and the rapid translation of E-STAR project outputs into malaria treatment guidelines and public health practice in The Gambia.

We confirm the following:

1. We will comply with the Horizon Europe Regulation (EU) No 2021/695; Council Regulation (EU) No 2085/2021 establishing the joint undertakings under Horizon Europe; the Model Grant Agreement for Horizon Europe and applicable Global Health EDCTP3 JU rules, including the relevant work programmes and in particular the call conditions therein.
2. We will keep all information received in the context of our involvement as contributing partner to the Global Health EDCTP3 JU confidential. This confidentiality obligation applies in particular but is not limited to the areas of Global Health EDCTP3 JU call topic preparation and publication, proposal submission and evaluation, and consortium formation. We further understand that this obligation strictly prohibits the release of confidential information to any legal entities save where specifically authorised by Global Health EDCTP3 JU. Internal dissemination of information within our organisation will be done on the basis of the "need-to-know" principle.
3. We are confident of our ability to fulfil the above commitments and further confirm our understanding that the Global Health EDCTP3 JU will allocate resources to the above topic based on these commitments.
4. The value of our contribution will be based on costs calculated in accordance with Article 6 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement.



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5. We accept that additional modalities regarding the provision of our contribution will be defined in subsequent agreements or documents, such as a funding agreement and topic text.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Sheriffo Jaghe

Director

National Public Health Laboratories

Kotu

25th August 2025

