
SECRETARIAT GENERAL

CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE
SCIENTIFIQUE ET TECHNOLOGIQUE

INSTITUT DE RECHERCHE EN SCIENCES
DE LA SANTE



DIRECTION REGIONALE DU CENTRE-OUEST
Tél: (226) 25-44-62-49 ; Fax: (226) 23-33-08-81
e-mail: info@crun.bf web : www.crun.bf

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Astrid Christine Erber, PhD

Medical University of Vienna
Center for Public Health
Department of Epidemiology
Kinderspitalgasse 15, 1st floor, room 121
1090 Vienna
Phone: +43 (0)1 40160-34703
Email: astrid.erber@meduniwien.ac.at

RE: Institutional Letter of Support and In-Kind Contribution to the E-STAR Project

Dear Dr Astrid,

On behalf of the **Clinical Research Unit of Nanoro (CRUN)** www.crun.bf, I am pleased to confirm our strong institutional support for the project titled "**Enhanced Surveillance and Treatment Adaptation for Artemisinin Resistance in Africa (E-STAR)**", submitted under the **HORIZON-JU-GH-EDCTP3-2025-01-MALARIA-02** call.

The **Clinical Research Unit of Nanoro (CRUN)** www.crun.bf is fully committed to the success of this multi-country initiative and hereby confirms significant in-kind contribution and support, estimated at 20% of the grant sum allocated to the Clinical Research Unit of Nanoro (CRUN), to support project implementation. This support will be directed toward research activities conducted in Burkina Faso, in collaboration with consortium partners across Sub-Saharan Africa and Europe.

In-Kind Contributions

Our institutional in-kind support includes, but is not limited to:

1. Personnel and Technical Expertise

- Dedicated time from senior scientific staff, including investigators, epidemiologists, and research clinicians.
- Project management, administrative, and financial oversight personnel.
- Field data collectors, surveillance coordinators, and social scientists supporting Work Package 8 on gender-responsive and culturally inclusive surveillance approaches.

2. Facilities and Infrastructure

- Access to furnished office space, laboratories, meeting rooms, and sample storage at our Mbale site.
- Use of our secure REDCap-based data systems, IT infrastructure, and internet bandwidth.

- Laboratory and diagnostic support, including access to PCR, biosafety level infrastructure, and biomedical engineering services.

3. Community and Stakeholder Engagement

- Use of our well-established community liaison structures to mobilize, engage, and retain participants.
- Facilitation of ethical and regulatory submissions and liaison with local and national authorities.
- Contribution of institutional visibility platforms for community dissemination and stakeholder dialogue.

4. Operational and Logistical Support

- Institutional vehicles and transport systems for sample and staff movement.
- Utilities (electricity, water), routine maintenance, and administrative logistics absorbed by the Institute.
- Coordination and logistical support for workshops, trainings, and consortium governance meetings.

Institutional Policies Ensuring Compliance

The **Clinical Research Unit of Nanoro (CRUN)** www.crun.bf operates under a comprehensive governance framework to ensure ethical, transparent, and accountable research practice. The following institutional policies will directly guide E-STAR project activities:

- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Human Resource Management Manual
- Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy
- Procurement Policy
- Research Integrity Policy
- Risk Management Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Sexual Harassment Policy

These policies are foundational to the quality assurance and ethical compliance of all research conducted under the Clinical Research Unit of Nanoro (CRUN) www.crun.bf leadership.

Consortium Collaboration and Strategic Integration

The Clinical Research Unit of Nanoro (CRUN) www.crun.bf plays an integral role in the E-STAR consortium, which brings together leading institutions across Uganda, Ghana, Malawi, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, The Gambia, and Burkina Faso, alongside Northern partners including the Medical University of Vienna (Austria) and the University of Oxford (UK).

Our collaborations are built on a history of shared research platforms, joint grant applications, ethics harmonization efforts, and coordinated malaria surveillance programs. These relationships provide a strong foundation for mutual accountability, equitable resource sharing, and cross-learning across contexts. The Clinical Research Unit of Nanoro (CRUN) www.crun.bf role in Work Package 9 (Dissemination, Exploitation and Policy Translation) is a strategic anchor for ensuring equity and impact throughout the study.

We view E-STAR as an important opportunity to reinforce Africa-led malaria surveillance, contribute meaningfully to global resistance monitoring, and build lasting infrastructure and research capacity. We are pleased to reaffirm our institutional commitment to the E-STAR project and look forward to collaborating across countries and institutions to deliver a program of science and policy relevance for Africa and the world.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Halidou TINTO
Regional Director and head of the CRUN

