



25 August 2025

**Letter of Support and Potential CEPI Contribution to the Proposal
Pandemic and Network Advancement – Africa (PANA)**

The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) is pleased to express its strong support for the proposed *Pandemic and Network Advancement – Africa (PANA)* initiative.

As part of CEPI's 100-Day Mission, we have been supporting the *Advancing Research Capabilities – West Africa (ARC-WA)* program with 15.3 million USD, which was awarded to the International Vaccine Institute (IVI) and jointly implemented with the Medical Research Council Unit, The Gambia (MRC-G), both acting as the Technical Coordinating Partner (TCP). The ARC-WA program has achieved significant progress through its two-track approach:

- **Track A**, strengthening clinical trial sites in Nigeria (4), Sierra Leone (1), and Liberia (1) to prepare for future Lassa fever clinical trials; and
- **Track B**, working with all 15 West African nations in close collaboration with the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) to enhance emergency research readiness across the region.

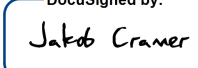
The objectives and design of PANA are highly complementary to ARC-WA. Funding PANA will expand this important work, particularly by strengthening research capacity in francophone and lusophone countries, while leveraging the experience gained by the TCP (IVI/MRC-G), and Africa CDC in linking sites and networks as convening partners.

The current ARC-WA grant will conclude in early 2026, and the TCP is already engaging with CEPI to plan the next phase of Track B activities, pending CEPI governance endorsement. These efforts will serve as in-kind support to PANA and provide a strong foundation for its success.

In addition, CEPI is highly supportive of the PANA application and, should EDCTP decide to fund this important initiative, we are committed to exploring opportunities for co-funding. Specifically, CEPI would assess whether it can contribute to activities not covered by EDCTP support, or to complementary activities that would extend the scope and impact of PANA.

Through this letter, CEPI reaffirms its full support for the PANA proposal and looks forward to continued collaboration with EDCTP and partners in strengthening Africa's pandemic preparedness and research capabilities, particularly in francophone and lusophone countries.

Sincerely,

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Jakob Cramer
Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)