



COUNTRY PROFILE

# Gabon

EDCTP participation



# Gabon in EDCTP

*(2003-present)*

# Gabon in EDCTP: key figures

Since 2003, institutions and researchers from Gabon have contributed to EDCTP-funded research through project participation, coordination, scientific leadership, and international collaboration.



**54**

**projects** involving Gabonese institutions or fellows



**5**

**Gabonese institutions involved** in EDCTP-funded projects



**46**

**collaborating countries** with Gabonese institutions through EDCTP-funded projects



**6**

consortia-based **projects coordinated** by Gabonese institutions



**3**

Global Health EDCTP3 projects with Gabonese **scientific leadership\***



**€33 M**

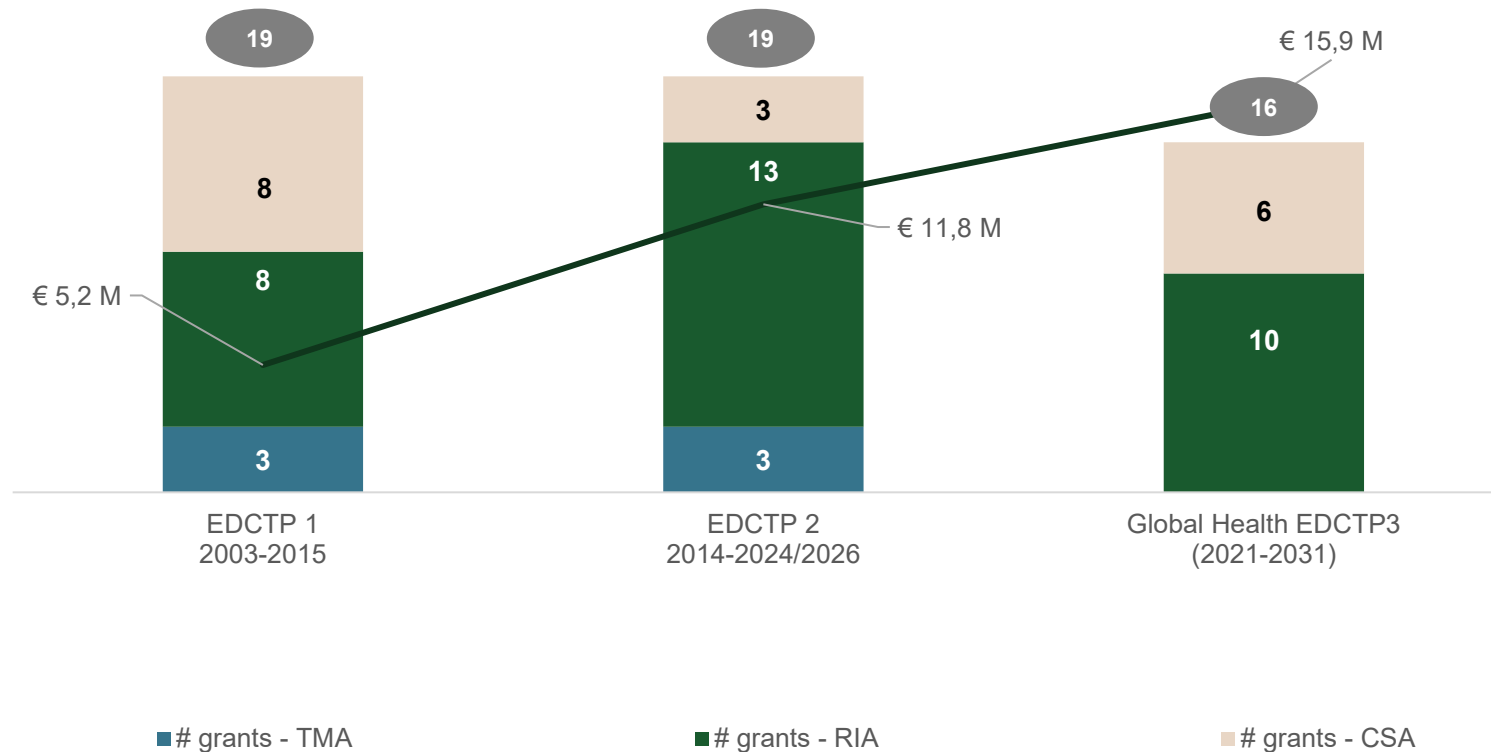
**funding** attributed to Gabonese institutions

\* Project scientific leader role was introduced in the [Work Programme 2023](#) and implemented in projects funded as of 2024

# Gabon in EDCTP: participation over time

Gabon has participated across all EDCTP iterations since 2003, with substantial involvement continuing under Global Health EDCTP3, the current Programme iteration.

Gabon participation across EDCTP iterations

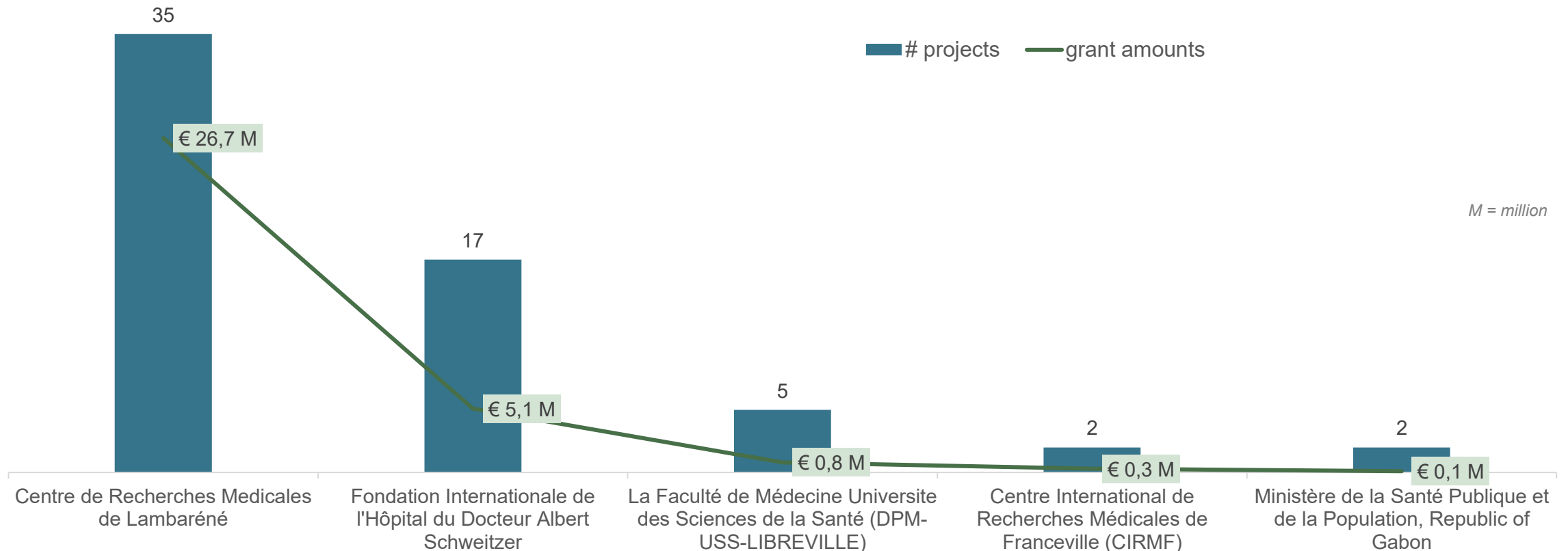


**TMA** = Training and Mobility Action; **RIA** = Research and Innovation Action; **CSA** = Coordination and Support Action. EDCTP1 used 10 original funding categories, which were regrouped here under TMA, RIA, and CSA equivalents for over-time comparability. In Global Health EDCTP3, CSAs may include fellowship components, but not direct individual fellowship grants as under the TMA model in EDCTP 1 and 2.

# Gabon in EDCTP: participating organisations

Gabon's EDCTP participation spans five national institutions, with CERMEL particularly prominent in project participation.

Gabon-based institutions participating in EDCTP projects



# Gabon in EDCTP: international collaboration network

Since 2003, Gabonese institutions have collaborated with partners in 42 countries through EDCTP-funded projects, with strong links across Africa and Europe.

**46** collaborating countries: **29** in Africa | **13** in Europe | **4** in other world regions

Top 20 partner countries by number of shared EDCTP-funded projects



Geographical spread of Gabon's EDCTP collaboration links



# Gabonese expertise contributing to EDCTP governance

Experts affiliated with institutions in Gabon have contributed to EDCTP advisory and governance structures

## ADVISORY

**2** representatives in the EDCTP Developing Countries Coordination Committee

### Angélique Ndjoyi Mbiguino

HIV/AIDS expert for Central Africa region

Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences,  
University of Health Sciences, Libreville

### Saadou Issifou

Malaria / antimalarial drugs and vaccines expert

Medical Research Unit, Albert Schweitzer  
Hospital, Lambaréné

## GOVERNANCE

**2** members in the EDCTP General Assembly

### Ayola Akim Adegnika

Clinical immuno-epidemiologist

Centre for Medical Research of Lambaréné

### Jean-Bernard Lekana Douki

Malaria expert

Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences, Univ.  
of Health Sciences, Libreville



# 2015

Gabon joined the  
EDCTP Association

# Gabon's wider contribution to EDCTP

Beyond project participation, Gabon has supported EDCTP through financial contributions, aligned national activities, and project co-investment.

## €6.6 K in-cash contribution

Gabon's contribution to the EDCTP Association, 2024-2025

## €250.8 K aligned in-kind investments

Value of in-kind activities implemented by Gabon in support of EDCTP Programme objectives

## €909.5 K partner contributions

Contributions pledged by Centre de Recherches Médicales de Lambaréné, as Contributing Partner to ongoing EDCTP-funded projects

### Aligned in-kind activities

- **Malaria:** Gabon has co-invested in global collaborative clinical research projects to identify antimalarial drug resistance markers in rural Gabon and strengthen surveillance of malaria drug resistance in the south-east of the country. **CERMEL** has led multiple clinical and epidemiological studies on malaria research, **making key contributions to the development of new antimalarial drugs and vaccines.**
- **Tuberculosis:** Gabon has supported research on multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB), including epidemiological studies assessing the effectiveness of shortened 9-month treatment regimens for MDR-TB patients in Gabon.

# Impact example: evidence for the first malaria vaccine (RTS,S)

Researchers from CERMEL led the adjuvant optimisation of RTS,S, and confirmed the vaccine's safety and efficacy in children.

## Story

Through CERMEL, Gabon was one of the three countries (alongside Ghana and Tanzania) involved in pivotal Phase II/III trials assessing whether RTS,S could be co-administered with routine childhood immunisation.

## What changed

CERMEL's contribution was instrumental in the selection and optimisation of the AS01 adjuvant and improving the understanding of the vaccine's immune response in children, supporting the eventual approval of RTS,S, the first malaria vaccine.

## Why this matters

Malaria remains a major cause of illness and death among African children. Gabon contributed to the final evidence base for a critical tool that is now being used alongside other malaria prevention tools in endemic countries.

To date, 25 African countries have included RTS,S and R21 (the second malaria vaccine) in their national immunisation programmes.

## EDCTP's contribution included:

- ✓ support to assessing the safety and effectiveness of RTS,S
- ✓ Building capacity to address implementation challenges for enhanced access

## References

- [WHO WER \(2025\) – MVIP RTS,S/AS01 case-control study](#)
- [Lell et al. \(2009\) – RTS,S trial in Gabonese children](#)
- [Ramharter et al. \(2021\) – CERMEL research excellence profile](#)



WHO-  
recommended



EMA positive  
opinion



# Impact example: malaria prevention and treatment

Through the EDCTP-funded PAMAfrica, MAMAH and 4ABC projects, CERMEL contributed to evidence on new malaria prevention strategies and innovative therapies for children and pregnant women with HIV.

## Story

Better malaria prevention and treatment options are needed for vulnerable groups, including children and pregnant women living with HIV. CERMEL has advanced malaria prevention and treatment for vulnerable groups through evidence on dihydroartemisinin-piperaquine (DP) in pregnancy and children, and contributed to PAmAfrica, which demonstrated the safety and efficacy of a new artemether-lumefantrine dispersible tablet for neonates and infants.

## What changed

The studies showed that DP can be an effective and safe antimalarial option, supporting EMA approval of Eurartesim® and providing evidence for malaria prevention strategies in pregnant women living with HIV. PamAfrica delivered Coartem Baby®, the first antimalarial medicine for newborns and young infants of 2-5 kg, a population underserved by existing malaria prevention tools.

## Why this matters

This expanded treatment options for vulnerable groups, helping improve access to safe and effective malaria prevention and care where standard options are less suitable.



EMA positive  
opinion



WHO-approved

## EDCTP's contribution included:

- ✓ funding for pragmatic, real-world implementation research to improve clinical and health outcomes
- ✓ funding for comparative trials to identify and optimise new drug combinations for target populations
- ✓ Investments in capacity development and system's strengthening for clinical research

## References

- [González et al. – MAMAH trial, IPTp-DP in pregnancy](#)
- [Sagara et al. – 4ABC trial, antimalarial combinations in children](#)
- [Wounounou, G et al. CALINA trial](#)



# Building the next generation of women scientists

Through EDCTP2, WISE supported **Dr Madeleine Eunice Betouke Ongwe's** PhD journey in health research.



**Dr Madeleine Eunice Betouke Ongwe**

Researcher from **Gabon** | PhD graduate in immunometabolism, Leiden University

## A unique path to health research

Building on her background in ecology and plant biology, Dr Betouke Ongwe developed laboratory and molecular biology expertise in Gabon before specialising in immunometabolism through training and PhD research at Leiden University in Netherlands.

## Supported through WISE

WISE, an EDCTP2-supported fellowship scheme for women PhD candidates in health research in sub-Saharan Africa, helped Dr Betouke Ongwe complete her thesis and publish her research despite COVID-19 disruption.

## Bringing expertise back to Gabon

Now back in Gabon, Dr Betouke Ongwe contributes to local research capacity through postdoctoral work, scientific and clinical research coordination, and teaching immunometabolism to master's students.

[Read the story: Madeleine Eunice's story: inspiring women in health research](#) →



# Supporting women's scientific leadership

Through an EDCTP2-GSK Senior Fellowship, **Prof. Marielle Bouyou-Akotet** advanced research on infections and long-term health risks in Gabon.



**Prof. Marielle Bouyou-Akotet**

Professor and researcher in Gabon | Infectious diseases, malaria and NCD risk

## Connecting infections and NCDs

Prof. Bouyou-Akotet showed that silent intestinal infections may contribute to chronic inflammation, a risk factor for diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

## Supported through EDCTP2-GSK

An EDCTP2-GSK Senior Fellowship supported Prof. Bouyou-Akotet's research on links between infections and long-term non-communicable disease (NCD) risks.

## Research rooted in Gabon

Her work mapped cardiovascular risk factors in Gabon, including inactivity, smoking and obesity, across gender, age, and rural/urban settings.

## Informing prevention and care

Prof. Bouyou-Akotet's findings suggest that better prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of common infections could bring wider long-term health benefits, including potentially reducing NCD risks.

[Read the story: Infectious links to cardiovascular disease](#) →



# Recognising long-term research partnership

EDCTP recognised **Prof. Peter Kremsner's** long-term collaboration with CERMEL, which helped position Gabon as a hub for infectious disease research and clinical trials.



**Prof. Peter Kremsner**

Tropical diseases researcher | Founding President of  
**CERMEL**, Lambaréné

## **CERMEL as a research hub**

Prof. Kremsner contributed to the development of CERMEL as a major Gabon-based centre for infectious disease research.

## **Recognised by EDCTP**

He received the 2023 **EDCTP Dr Pascoal Mocumbi Prize**, which recognises outstanding achievements in health research and capacity development in Africa.

## **Collaborative infectious disease R&I**

Prof. Kremsner supported clinical research on malaria, hookworm, tuberculosis and Ebola, including vaccine studies conducted through CERMEL.

## **Training through partnership**

He contributed to doctoral training and scientific mentorship, supporting research careers across African and international collaborations.

Read the story: Professor Peter Kremsner receives the prestigious EDCTP Dr Pascoal Mocumbi Prize →



# Project highlight: 4ABC Study

Gabon participated in the 4ABC trial which identified the most effective antimalarial drug combinations for treating uncomplicated malaria in young children.

The 4ABC study (2005-2010) was an EDCTP-supported multicounty clinical trial aimed to identify the most effective artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs) for **treating uncomplicated malaria in young children**.

The trial directly compared four ACTs across **12 sites in seven African countries including Gabon**, providing robust evidence on their safety and efficacy and becoming the largest head-to-head comparison of ACTs in African children.

Its findings showed that several treatment options were highly efficacious, and that the dihydroartemisinin-piperaquine (**DP**) had the **additional benefit of significantly reducing re-infection rates**.

This supported the **European Medicines Agency approval** and **WHO recommendation** of DP, informed national malaria treatment policies across Africa, and contributed to wider adoption of highly effective ACTs that have helped reduce malaria mortality with deaths in Africa falling by 37% between 2010 and 2016.



# Project highlight: CANTAM

Through CANTAM, Gabon has contributed to and strengthened regional research capacity on TB, HIV/AIDS and malaria.

The Central African Network on TB, HIV/AIDS and Malaria (CANTAM) plays a key role in **capacity-building in the subregion**. Founded in 2008, it now encompasses nine institutions in five Central African countries, as well as institutions in three European countries and a partner from Zambia with special expertise in viral research.

The network works across **TB, malaria, HIV/AIDS, neglected tropical diseases and emerging infections**. It supports multisite research, strengthens collaboration between institutions, and provides training for researchers and research staff.

In Gabon, this partnership helped strengthen national capacity, including the **upgrading of the TB laboratory**, which now acts as the national reference laboratory for TB diagnosis.



# Gabon in Global Health EDCTP3

*(2021-present)*

# Gabon in Global Health EDCTP3 - portfolio

Gabon participates in 16 projects spanning 37 countries, with €15.9 M in grant funding attributed to CERMEL, which provides scientific leadership in three projects.

| Project                 | Focus                                  | Number of project countries | Grant funding - total | Grant funding - Gabon |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>ACROBAT Newborns</u> | Illness in newborns                    | 8                           | € 4.8 M               | € 0.3 M               |
| <u>AFRICAI-RI</u>       | AI-based diagnosis of lung conditions  | 13                          | € 5.0 M               | € 0.3 M               |
| <u>AFRITRAC</u>         | Capacity strengthening                 | 12                          | € 1.3 M               | € 0.1 M               |
| <u>ASAAP-plus</u>       | Malaria therapy                        | 7                           | € 1.5 M               | € 0.1 M               |
| <u>CATCR</u>            | Capacity strengthening                 | 8                           | € 4.8 M               | € 0.8 M               |
| <u>CUREMAL*</u>         | Malaria therapy                        | 9                           | € 8.4 M               | € 2.0 M               |
| <u>DENSTAR</u>          | Dengue vaccine                         | 9                           | € 11.1 M              | € 2.1 M               |
| <u>eWHORM</u>           | Parasitic worm infections therapy      | 7                           | € 8.0 M               | € 1.4 M               |
| <u>FACT*</u>            | Malaria therapy                        | 6                           | € 10.1 M              | € 3 M                 |
| <u>INTEGRATE</u>        | Lassa Fever therapy                    | 10                          | € 8.0 M               | € 0.1 M               |
| <u>PANGenS</u>          | Genomic surveillance                   | 12                          | € 5.0 M               | € 0.2 M               |
| <u>PRESERVE</u>         | Capacity strengthening                 | 9                           | € 12.5 M              | € 1.1 M               |
| <u>RAMP</u>             | Malaria therapy                        | 6                           | € 10.3 M              | € 1.3 M               |
| <u>The PHM Hub</u>      | Capacity strengthening                 | 7                           | € 1.3 M               | € 0.1 M               |
| <u>TreatPreg*</u>       | Preventive treatments during pregnancy | 6                           | € 4.8 M               | € 1.7 M               |
| <u>WANECAM3</u>         | Malaria therapy                        | 10                          | € 10.3 M              | € 1.2 M               |
| <b>16 projects</b>      |                                        | <b>37 countries</b>         | <b>€107.2 M**</b>     | <b>€ 15.9 M**</b>     |

\* CERMEL (Gabon) is the project scientific leader

\*\* totals calculated from unrounded amounts

# Project highlight: CUREMAL

Gabon is the scientific leader investigating Innovative Transformative CURE for MALARia: Rapid-Action Combinations to Replace Artemisinin.

## The challenge:

- Malaria remains a leading cause of illness and death in sub-Saharan Africa despite decades of control efforts.
- Growing antimalarial drug resistance threatens current treatments, highlighting the urgent need for new, effective medicines.

## Expected impact:

- Generate clinical evidence on the safety and efficacy of a novel antimalarial combination against drug-resistant Plasmodium falciparum.
- Advance the development of a fast-acting, single-dose treatment while strengthening clinical trial capacity.



Coordinator:

**GlaxoSmithKline Investigación y Desarrollo S.L. (GSK)** – Tres Cantos, Madrid, Spain.

Scientific leader:

**Centre de Recherches Médicales de Lambaréné (CERMEL)** – Lambaréné, Gabon.

Countries: **Gabon, Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique, Spain, Switzerland, Germany, South Africa.**

Funding: **€8.4 M**

Project length: **2026 – 2030**

[https://www.global-health-edctp3.europa.eu/projects/preserve\\_en](https://www.global-health-edctp3.europa.eu/projects/preserve_en)

# Project highlight: PRESERVE

Gabon participates in the preparedness, research, and surveillance network for infectious diseases in Central Africa.

## The challenge:

- Central Africa is highly vulnerable to emerging infections.
- Preparedness is constrained by weak infrastructure, limited expertise, and poor cross-border data sharing.

## Expected impact:

- Build regional One Health and clinical research capacity across Central Africa.
- Develop tools, protocols, and systems to rapidly launch outbreak clinical trials and strengthen regional preparedness.
- Upgrade laboratories, training, and infrastructure to improve preparedness.



Coordinator:

**European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership, Netherlands**

Scientific leader:

**Fondation Congolaise Pour La Recherche Medicale, Congo**

Countries: **Netherlands, Congo, France, Cameroon, DRC, Germany, UK, Gabon, Zambia**

Funding: **€12.5 M**

Project length: **2026 – 2031**

[https://www.global-health-edctp3.europa.eu/projects/preserve\\_en](https://www.global-health-edctp3.europa.eu/projects/preserve_en)

# Project highlight: ACROBAT Newborns

Gabon participates in Appraising the Critical Role of prognostic Biomarkers in the Assessment and Triage of sick African newborns.

## **The challenge:**

- Neonatal sepsis is a major cause of newborn deaths in sub-Saharan Africa, but it is hard to diagnose.
- Low-resource settings lack fast, affordable tools to identify high-risk newborns and guide treatment.

## **Expected impact:**

- Develop and validate the X-TREM point-of-care test to enable rapid identification of newborns at highest risk of sepsis.
- Improve newborn survival and strengthen clinical decision-making facilitating future adoption in African health systems.



Coordinator:  
**Fundacion Privada Instituto de Salud Global  
Barcelona, Spain**

Scientific leader:  
**Global Health Uganda Limited, Uganda**

Countries: **Uganda, Gabon, Mozambique,  
Ethiopia, Nigeria, Spain, Germany, UK**

Funding: **€4.8 M**

Project length: **2025 – 2029**

[https://www.global-health-edctp3.europa.eu/projects/acrobat-newborns\\_en](https://www.global-health-edctp3.europa.eu/projects/acrobat-newborns_en)

# Project highlight: DENSTAR

Gabon participates in the Dengue Efficacy and Safety Trial in African Region.

## The challenge:

- Dengue is an emerging and growing threat in sub-Saharan Africa, with existing vaccines offering only partial protection and limited applicability.
- Prevention is increasingly constrained by insecticide resistance, rapid urbanisation, climate change, and the lack of a safe, broadly deployable vaccine.

## Expected impact:

- African clinical evidence to support the safety, immunogenicity, and registration of a novel single-dose tetravalent dengue vaccine.
- Strengthen regional capacity for advanced vaccine trials, including the establishment of Africa's first dengue human challenge model and pathways for local vaccine manufacturing.



Coordinator:  
**Sclavo Vaccines Association, Italy**

Scientific leader:  
**H Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana**

Countries: **South Korea, DRC, Mozambique, Ghana, United States, Germany, Gabon, India**

Funding: **€11.1 M**

Project length: **2026 – 2030**

[https://www.global-health-edctp3.europa.eu/projects/denstar\\_en](https://www.global-health-edctp3.europa.eu/projects/denstar_en)

# Project highlight: PANGenS

Gabon participates in the Pan-Africa network for genomic surveillance of poverty related diseases and emerging pathogens.

## The challenge:

- Drug resistance is an increasing threat for TB and malaria, leading to poorer clinical outcomes and spread.
- Genomic surveillance capacity remains limited in sub-Saharan Africa, especially for sequencing, data analysis, and translating findings into policy.

## Expected impact:

- Strengthen genomic surveillance across 12 African countries to track resistance to anti-TB and antimalarial drugs.
- Generate data to identify resistance hotspots, improve diagnostics, and support updated treatment policies.



Coordinator:  
**Forschungszentrum Borstel Leibniz  
Lungenzentrum, Germany**

Scientific leader:  
**Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research,  
University of Ghana, Ghana**

Countries: **Benin, Gabon, Germany, Ghana,  
Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, Nigeria,  
South Africa, Switzerland, Tanzania, United  
Kingdom**

Funding: **€5.0 M**

Project length: **2023–2027**

[https://www.global-health-edctp3.europa.eu/projects/pangens\\_en](https://www.global-health-edctp3.europa.eu/projects/pangens_en)



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# Thank you!

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