

Work Programme 2026

Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking

Second modified version

Explanatory note

Annex 1 to Governing Board decision No. GH-EDCTP3-GB/20/2026.

1. BUDGET 2026 Amendment 2 (AMBU2)

Compared to Amendment 1 to Work Programme and Budget 2026 as adopted on 15 April 2026, this new version recognises and balances (Revenue and Expenditure) new contributions that could be presented accordingly:

- The JU will receive EUR 1 million in commitment appropriations from the HE Health Cluster emergency budget with the objective to support the Ebola Public Health Emergency Call (for all 4 IBAs). On top of that, an additional reactivation of EUR 495 706 unused administrative commitment appropriations from 2023 will be transferred to the operational budget 2026 with the same purpose.
- EUR 8.475 million will be received in 2026 following the signed funding partnership with Novo Nordisk Foundation in order to support the call for project proposals focused on developing new prevention and treatment approaches for lower respiratory tract infections in sub-Saharan Africa (WP 2026 LRTIs call). The remaining amount of such funding partnership will be inscribed in WP 2027.
- Reactivation of EUR 1.05 million unused administrative payment appropriations from 2023 will be transferred to the operational budget 2026.
- A total payment of EUR 9.9 million will be received as per the signature of the funding agreement with Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations ("CEPI") signed in 2025. This amount corresponds to the 90% of the CEPI financial contribution maximum amount. CEPI will retain the remaining 10% until CEPI's received all final technical and financial reports from all projects attributed to CEPI financial contribution under the call for proposals.
- Following the signature of the funding agreement with Leprosy Research Initiative, a first instalment of EUR 200 000 will be paid by 1 December 2026 if leprosy projects are selected for funding.
- Minor adaptation of appropriations in some budget lines (administrative) is proposed considering the evolution of budget needs identified for the second quarter 2026. On top of that, a minor adjustment in recoveries of administrative costs (commitment and payment appropriations).

2. Contributions from contributing partners

- Subject to the approval by the Governing Board of the letter of endorsement from the Novo Nordisk Foundation (NNF), NNF will become a contributing partner and provide a financial contribution of EUR 8.475 million to the call "Global Collaboration Action for Prevention and Treatment of Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTIs) in sub-Saharan Africa" under the Work Programme 2026. This call will support late-stage clinical studies advancing the prevention and treatment of pathogens related to LRTIs by evaluating the safety, immunogenicity, efficacy and/or effectiveness of approved or novel preventive or therapeutic candidates targeting individuals in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Following the approval of the letter of endorsement from the Leprosy Research Initiative (LRI) in 2025, LRI became a contributing partner and will provide a financial contribution of up to EUR 400 000 to support one project with a leprosy component as part of the 'Global collaboration action for the development of TB drugs for therapy and chemoprophylaxis in adults and children in sub-Saharan Africa'. If none of the selected projects for funding under this call topic has a leprosy component, LRI's funding would not be provided. On top of that, as per the signature of the funding agreement with Leprosy Research Initiative, a first instalment of EUR 200 000 will be paid by 1 December 2026 if leprosy projects are selected for funding.

3. Four grants to identified beneficiaries in the context of Mobilisation of Emergency funding for the Ebola Bundibugyo outbreak research response

In June 2026, the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking activated an **emergency funding mechanism** to address the rapidly escalating **Bundibugyo Ebola outbreak** in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda This mechanism was based on "Other actions not subject to call for

proposals - Mobilisation of research funds in case of Public Health Emergencies” with an **increased budget of EUR 4 million**. This emergency response mechanism was activated following a declaration of **Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) by WHO** on May 17, 2026. To capitalise on the existing investments and ensure a quick response capacity, Global Health EDCTP3 opened **four fast-track, identified beneficiary grants** targeting existing projects already working on Ebola and surveillance capacity.

This process was closely discussed with and followed by the Governing Board.

This new funding is in response to and fully aligned with the research priorities outlined in the **WHO-Africa CDC Continental preparedness and response plan**¹ published on 5 June 2026 in the context of “One response” framework, in which **Global Health EDCTP3 has been identified as a key support partner** under Pillar 7: Research, Knowledge Management and Access to Medical Countermeasures.

The emergency funding mechanism will **build on the work of eight ongoing projects** funded by Global Health EDCTP3 that will be pivoted to respond to the new Ebola Bundibugyo virus disease outbreak through conducting additional research and coordination activities on **surveillance, diagnostics and therapeutics**.

The new activities will focus on three priority areas:

1. **Establishing a regional Ebola surveillance and preparedness framework**, connecting existing surveillance sites, laboratories, community networks and wildlife monitoring activities across affected and at-risk countries, in addition to facilitating the sharing of real-time epidemiological, clinical and genomic intelligence;
2. **Accelerating validation and deployment of reliable point-of-care diagnostics**, establishing a coordinated diagnostics validation platform to harmonise protocols, share specimens and biobanks, and evaluate novel diagnostic technologies under outbreak conditions;
3. **Advancing broad-spectrum therapeutic candidates**, building a coordinated pathway to prioritise, evaluate and advance therapeutic candidates.

Under the calls **HORIZON-JU-GH-EDCTP3-2026-01-EBOLA-IBA**, **HORIZON-JU-GH-EDCTP3-2026-02-EBOLA-IBA**, **HORIZON-JU-GH-EDCTP3-2026-03-EBOLA-IBA** and **HORIZON-JU-GH-EDCTP3-2026-04-EBOLA-IBA**², three Ebola-specific projects (EBO-PEP, Ebola PREP-TBOX, EPOCA) and five networks of excellence (SINCEP-Africa, PRESERVE, EACCR4, ACT-PREP, WANETAM-4) have been invited to submit proposals (up to EUR 1 million each, with potential additional activities to be funded by contributing partners) by 7 July 2026.

¹ <https://www.afro.who.int/publications/bundibugyo-ebola-virus-continental-preparedness-and-response-plan-june-november-2026>

² [Mobilisation of research funds in response to the Ebola Bundibugyo outbreak in Democratic Republic of the Congo \(DRC\) and Uganda | Global Health EDCTP3](#)