

# End-of-year highlights: 2023 activities and achievements

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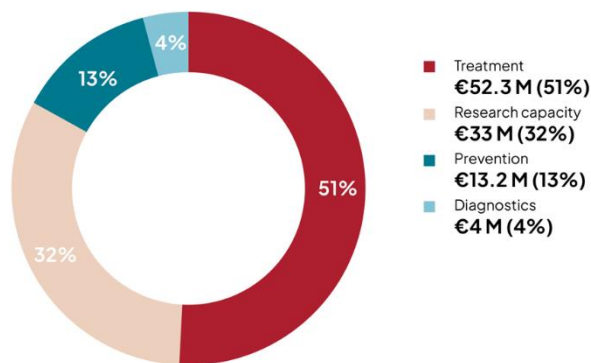
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## Overview of 2023 activities

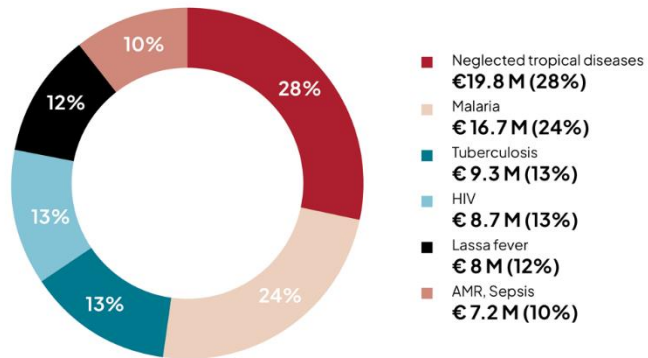
### 1.1 Ongoing projects

In 2022, the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking (Global Health EDCTP3) published its [first annual Work Programme](#) and funding opportunities. With a total funding of over €102 million, the first [29 projects](#) funded under the Global Health EDCTP3 are now working on several fields and diseases.

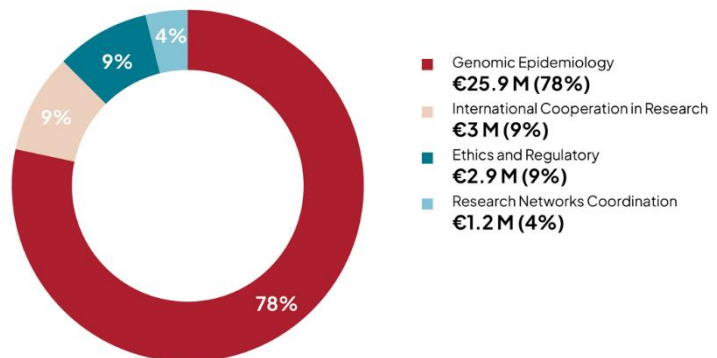
Budget by type of intervention (in millions)



Budget by disease area (in millions)

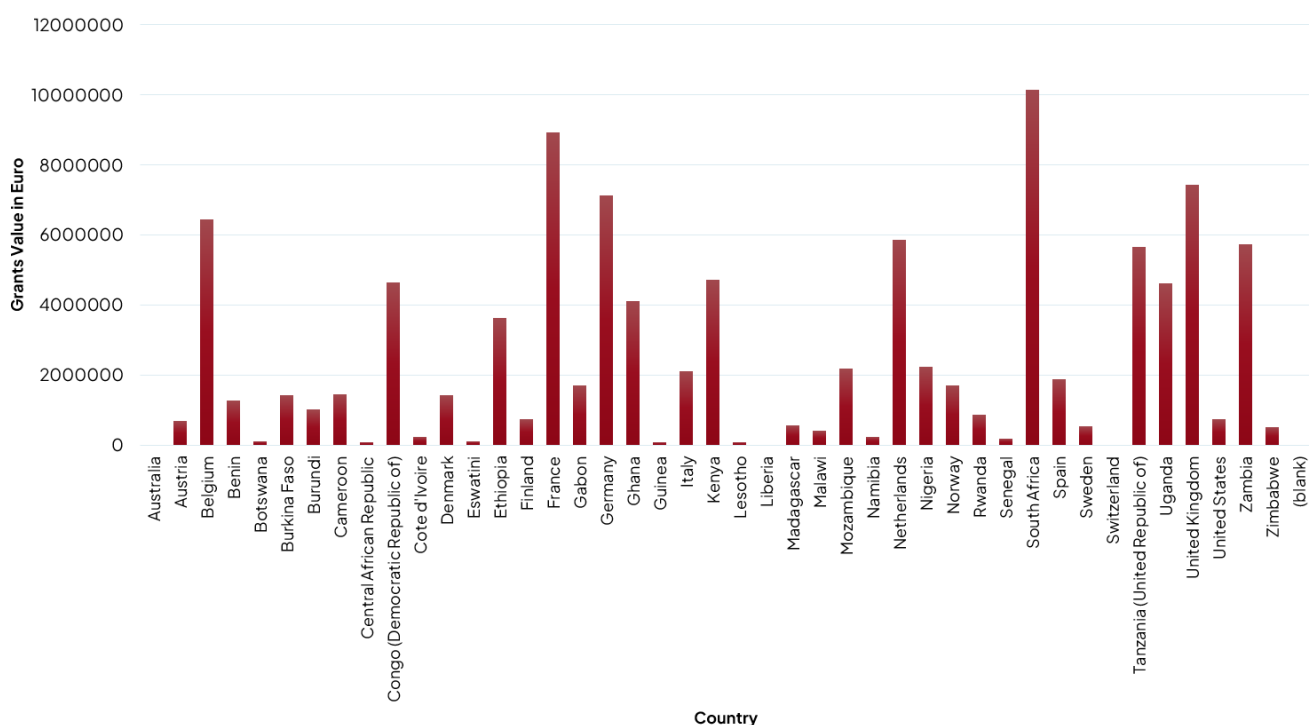


Budget by type of capacity-building activity (in millions)



All projects funded under the Global Health EDCTP3 support South-South and South-North collaboration. This is a requirement when applying for funding, as all consortia are obliged to have at least one partner from a European Union member state or country associated to [Horizon Europe](#), and at least one partner from a sub-Saharan African country that is a member of the EDCTP Association.

### Budget distribution per country



## SPOTLIGHT ON

### Genomic epidemiology calls jointly designed with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Under the 2022 Work Programme, the Global Health EDCTP3 and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) jointly developed a set of [genomic epidemiology \(GENEPI\) calls for proposals](#). 52 partners are engaged through the 5 projects selected, coming from 9 EU and 15 African countries, with a total budget of €29.5 million from Global Health EDCTP3 and a €33 million indirect contribution from BMGF channelled through the Africa Pathogen Genomics Initiative (Africa PGI). The disease scope of projects includes tuberculosis, Malaria, HIV, typhoid fever, Rift Valley Fever, water-borne diseases and AMR. The projects will, among other tasks, work to increase the use of genomic epidemiology by National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs) across Africa to answer public health questions of most concern nationally and regionally and create data platforms through which integrated epidemiologic, clinical, and genomic data can be collected and combined.

## 1.2 Implementation of the annual Work Programme

On 4 April 2023, Global Health EDCTP3 published its [2023 Work Programme](#) with over €130 million in funding opportunities to support research into infectious diseases. This annual programme included different funding opportunities (topics), dividing into single-stage and two-stage topics.

### Single-stage topics

With a total budget of over €74 million, five of these topics closed submission of proposals on 4 July 2023. Ninety-nine proposals were submitted involving 392 different partners from 60 countries. 30% of these partners are based in the European Union and Associated Countries, and over 60% come from sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries that are members of the EDCTP Association. After evaluation by experts, the 27 proposals selected for funding were informed in November 2023 and have now started the process of Grant Agreement Preparation (GAP).

Topic name	Total budget and expected budget per proposal (in million)	Proposals submitted and selected for funding
Global Health EDCTP3 Training Networks – Clinical Research Fellowships	Indicative total budget: €15.30 M Expected project size: €5 M	Submitted: 25 Selected: 4
Funding to successfully finalise EDCTP2-funded clinical trials that were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic	Indicative total budget: €14 M Expected project size: €0.25-2.5 M	Submitted: 18 Selected: 8
Implementation research/real life assessment of existing interventions in women and children's health	Indicative total budget: €26 M Expected project size: €4 M	Submitted: 28 Selected: 6
Research to rapidly evaluate interventions on Ebola outbreaks in sub-Saharan Africa	Indicative total budget: €11 M Expected project size: €3 M	Submitted: 10 Selected: 3
Strengthening ethics and regulatory capacity	Indicative total budget: €8 M Expected project size: €1 M	Submitted: 18 Selected: 6

### Two-stage topics

On 27 June 2023, two further topics with €56 million in support available were opened for submission of proposals. 79 first-stage proposals, comprising 412 different partners from 60 countries, were submitted by the deadline, 28 September 2023. Eligible proposals subsequently underwent expert evaluation that focused on the scientific excellence and expected impact. 37 proposals have been invited to submit their complete research proposal by 03 April 2024, after which the second and final evaluation stage will take place.

Topic name	Total budget and expected budget per proposal (in million)	Proposals submitted and invited for second stage
Improving modes of delivery, deployment, and uptake of vaccines through phase IV/implementation research	Indicative total budget: €30 M Expected project size: €5 M	Submitted: 28 Invited: 16
Advancing point-of-care diagnostics to the market	Indicative total budget: €26 M Expected project size: €5 M	Submitted: 51 Invited: 21

### 1.3 Working with like-minded partners

During 2023, Global Health EDCTP has engaged and collaborated with partners in different ways.



Active participation in different global health fora has held a high priority in the programme and included the attendance and/or organisation of sessions at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) annual meeting (Germany, May), the 3rd Africa Health Research and Innovation Funders Forum (South Africa, August), Grand Challenges Forum (Senegal, October), World Health Summit (Germany, October), EDCTP Forum (France, November), the WHO Global Clinical Trials Forum (Switzerland, November), the Global Health Policy Forum (Belgium, November) and the International Conference on Public Health in Africa (Zambia, November).

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Global Health EDCTP3 participated in the first ever health-day at COP 28 (United Arab Emirates, December), as well as at the Reaching the Last Mile Forum side-event, where we announced a pledge of over €46 million to fight Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in sub-Saharan Africa.



We were honoured to accept the Prize for Science Diplomacy awarded by the Government of South Africa during the Science Forum South Africa (South Africa, December), where we also hosted a side session on the role of health research to achieving sustainable development.

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The BMGF-Global Health EDCTP3 collaboration has seen its joint projects launched. All grant agreements are signed, and the consortia have kick-started their work. On the occasion of the Grand Challenges meeting held in Dakar (Senegal) in October, the consortia and partners of the GENEPI collaboration held their first joint meeting to initiate discussions between the Global Health-EDCTP3 projects and the genomics initiatives supported by BMGF. Moreover, a collaboration agreement and joint working groups are being established in order to streamline and coordinate the work of the projects.

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Global Health EDCTP3 has established new conversations with nearly a dozen different partners in order to identify potential synergies and promote coordinated responses, in particular with joint calls for proposals for the year 2025.

## 1.4 Governance

### New Executive Director and financial autonomy

On 16 November 2023, Dr Michael Makanga started his tenure as the new Executive Director of the Global Health EDCTP3. Dr Makanga was previously the Executive Director of the EDCTP Association.

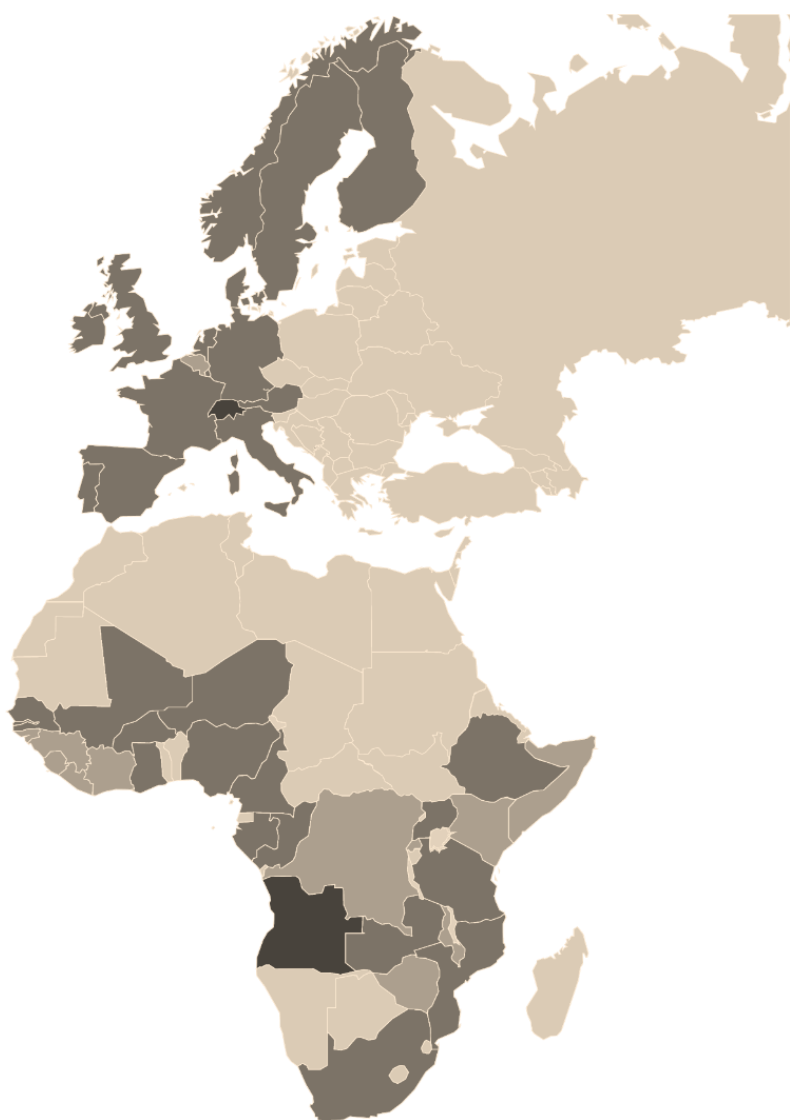
Following the appointment of the Executive Director, on 23 November, Global Health EDCTP3 became financially autonomous from the European Commission, which had been responsible for the establishment and initial operation of the programme until it achieved the operational capacity to implement its own budget.

Dr Makanga leads this new implementation phase of the Global Health EDCTP3, ensuring the correct implementation of the annual Work Programmes and working towards achieving the programme's objectives. Since its launch in 2021, Dr Elmar Nimmesgern, an experienced official of the European Commission, had been acting as interim Executive Director of the Global Health EDCTP3.

### Expansion of the EDCTP Association

We are happy to report that seven countries joined the EDCTP Association in 2023: Liberia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Benin (in order of date of entrance). This brings to 43 the total number of countries in the EDCTP Association: 15 European and 28 African countries. Practically, this means that legal entities established in these countries are now eligible to receive funding under the Global Health EDCTP3. Angola and Switzerland are currently aspirant members of the EDCTP Association.

The EDCTP Association is governed by its General Assembly, in which Members (Participating States), Aspirant Members and Observers are represented. The EDCTP Association is one of the two members of the Global Health EDCTP3, with the other being the European Union, represented by the European Commission.



### **Consolidation of the Scientific Committee**

Constituted in 2022, the Scientific Committee is the scientific advisory body of the Global Health EDCTP3. The Committee is currently composed of 18 members coming from Europe and Africa, including a Chair (Professor John Gyapong) and a Vice-Chair (Professor Marleen Temmerman). Since its establishment, the Committee has been assisting the Global Health EDCTP3 in the design of its strategic and scientific activities, including the priorities to be addressed by the calls for proposals. In the course of 2023, Scientific Committee members actively contributed to the prioritisation process for the 2024 Work Programme, taking into account previous investments made through the 2022 Work Programme and expected outcomes of the 2023 Work Programme.

### **Establishment and expansion of the Stakeholders Group**

In early 2023, Global Health EDCTP3 established its Stakeholders Group (SG) having as a mission to provide input on the scientific, strategic and technological priorities to be addressed by the Global Health EDCTP3, as well as suggestions for enabling concrete synergies to take place between the partnership and the adjacent sectors. This group was further extended in June 2023 to incorporate further representatives of key stakeholders in global health such as academia, industry, civil society organisations, patient representatives, as well as key actors in specific topic areas. The Group is currently composed of 33 members, including a Chair (Dr. Neeraj Mistry) and a Vice-Chair (Dr. Christine Nabiryo). Inputs have been provided by the Group on a number of issues, including on Work Programme 2024, as well as explorations on collaborations with adjacent sectors.

### **Collaboration between the Scientific Committee and the Stakeholders Group**

Coordination of the activities of the Scientific Committee and the Stakeholders Group has been established to ensure complementarities and avoid duplication of efforts. On 7 November 2023, the two groups met for the first time on the side of the EDCTP Forum to lay the foundations of their collaborative work, identify synergies and explore collaborations within Global Health EDCTP3. Moreover, the Chairs of each group are invited to attend the other group's meetings as observers and to report on the work of each body.



## Looking ahead: 2024 Work Programme

### 2024 Work Programme

To maximise the impact of the partnership, Global Health EDCTP3 focuses on strategically critical areas of unmet medical need with its calls for proposals published annually reflecting specific current research needs for target diseases and research capacity development.

The Global Health EDCTP3 Work Programmes for years 2022 and 2023 addressed several key aspects of our Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda. [In 2024](#), €140 million will be disbursed through 7 different funding opportunities. Specifically, these opportunities will support activities aimed at tackling diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDS and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) as well as the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). These opportunities will also aim to capitalise on the rapid advancements in digitalisation and unprecedented opportunities created by digital health services to improve prevention, detection and treatment of infectious diseases. Importantly, training of researchers will also be sought. Training activities will also be addressed in 2024, in particular through collaborations with industry partners.

Topic name (Indicative)	Total budget and expected budget per proposal (in million)
Developing novel, innovative HIV therapeutics for reducing the disease burden of HIV in sub-Saharan Africa	Indicative total budget: €22 M Expected project size: €5.5 M
Research on existing malaria vaccines and development of new promising candidates	Indicative total budget: €30 M Expected project size: €15 M
Accelerating development of therapeutics and non-pharmaceutical interventions against Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in sub-Saharan Africa	Indicative total budget: €22 M Expected project size: €5 M
Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) through R&D in novel and existing antimicrobials	Indicative total budget: €24 M Expected project size: €6 M
New tools, technologies and approaches for vector control in sub-Saharan Africa	Indicative total budget: €18.432 M Expected project size: €6.14 M
Innovative digital health solutions for sub-Saharan Africa	Indicative total budget: €20 M Expected project size: €5 M
Global Health EDCTP3 academia/industry fellowship with return phase	Indicative total budget: €3.5 M Expected project size: €3.5
Mobilisation of research funds in case of public health emergencies	Indicative total budget: €1 M

To ensure that Global Health EDCTP3 attracts the broadest possible range of relevant applicants to its calls and involves partners at all levels, in early 2024 a virtual information session will be held to inform potential applicants about these funding opportunities, as well as on eligibility criteria and other relevant administrative matters.

### Other activities

In addition to the direct funding attributed by the Global Health EDCTP3 programme office to eligible organisations carrying out clinical research and other activities, the member countries of the EDCTP Association also align and coordinate their activities in the scope of the programme. In 2024, EDCTP Association members plan to support activities worth over €152 million, bringing their planned total contribution to €540 million to date (since 2021).

Throughout 2024, Global Health EDCTP3 will continue to engage with strategically important European, African and other international partners and to support research and capacity-building activities to tackle infectious diseases, contributing to our objectives of reducing the burden of such diseases in sub-Saharan Africa and increasing health security globally.