



# BMBF Funding Initiative

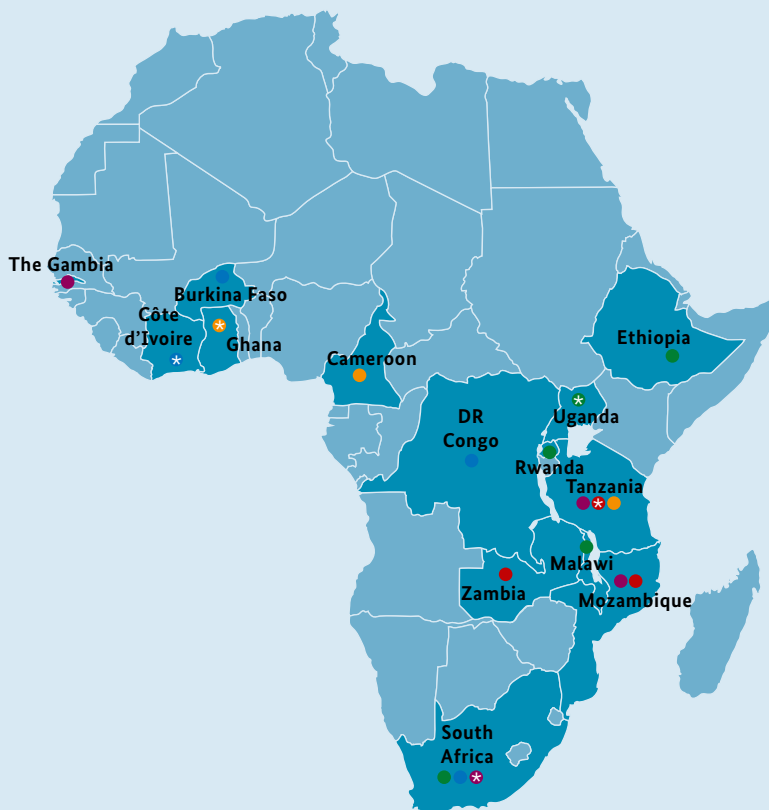
## Research Networks for Health Innovations in Sub-Saharan Africa

In 2014, BMBF launched a new funding initiative for the establishment and expansion of research networks for health innovations in sub-Saharan Africa. The initiative combines support for excellent research with comprehensive capacity-strengthening activities

and aims to sustainably advance the health research landscape in the African partner countries. By fostering health research, the initiative will also help to develop local health systems, which will ultimately contribute to breaking the vicious cycle between poverty and disease. This initiative is one of the main pillars of the BMBF funding strategy for global health research and will receive up to €50 million for five years (2017–2021).

Five research networks with four to seven African and two German partners each have been selected for funding. All networks are coordinated by African scientists and will thus focus on regional needs. Interdisciplinary, international cooperation through joint research is the key to success.

The majority of the projects are dedicated to research on poverty-related infectious diseases such as tuberculosis or parasitic worm diseases. One project focuses on the research and implementation of evidence-based healthcare. Moreover, all projects aim to strengthen clinical and laboratory capacities in the African partner countries.



- African Network for improved Diagnostics, Epidemiology and Management of Common Infectious Agents (**ANDEMIA**)
- Collaboration for Evidence-Based Healthcare and Public Health in Africa (**CEBHA+**)
- Cysticercosis network of Sub-Saharan Africa (**CYSTINET-A**)
- Tackling the Obstacles to Fight Filariasis (**TAKeOFF**)
- Co-morbidities, risk factors and long-term sequel defining the individual outcome and public health impact of TB disease (**TB Sequel**)

\* = Network coordination

### The research networks are expected to:

- focus on research topics that reflect the local and regional needs in Africa,
- take account of the national and regional African health and research programmes,
- pursue realistic and sustainable capacity-building goals,
- build on, strengthen and bring together existing structures and
- combine product development and clinical research with capacity development and integrate healthcare and educational aspects.

## BMBF research concept for neglected and poverty-associated diseases



The funding concept was initially launched in 2011 and published in a completely revised and strategically focused version in 2015 with the title *Global Health in the Focus of Research*. The concept and the measures reflect the growing importance Germany is attaching to global health issues and the particular role of research and development as a key contribution to the global fight against neglected and poverty-related diseases.

The concept bundles the Ministry's increased efforts in the field of R&D for global health, both on the national level and in cooperation with international partners. With the concept, the Ministry is placing the development of urgently needed therapies, vaccines and diagnostics at the very heart of its funding measures in full consideration of the recent international activities and

agreement, such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals, WHO recommendations and the statements of the G7.

The funding concept builds on the elements already included in the 2011 concept (national funding, European cooperation, product development and partnership with Africa) and incorporates additional aspects (pandemic control measures and non-communicable diseases) in order to give due consideration to the new and increasing requirements of the global health policy.

### The priorities of the funding concept

- A new, five-year round of funding for product development partnerships, launched in 2016, with no restrictions regarding specific poverty-related diseases and a funding volume of up to €50 million.
- Implement the research networks for health innovations and the interdepartmental Research Agreement on Zoonoses.
- Increase German participation in the EDCTP, both in organisational and financial terms, with the goal of working with the EDCTP partners to ensure the success of an efficient initiative based on partnership.
- Launch the international research coordination on NTDs that has been agreed with the G7 partners by building on existing approaches (e.g. in the context of WHO).
- Continue to develop the national research funding for neglected and poverty-related diseases.

### Contact and further information

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