



AfroLabNet 2.0

Rapid laboratory response to outbreaks of viral haemorrhagic fevers and other emerging viral diseases in sub-Saharan Africa

Context

Emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, such as COVID-19 in 2021, Ebola virus disease in 2014 and human Mpox in 2023, pose a great threat to the global community not only from a public health perspective, but also from an economic and social standpoint. Furthermore, the changing climate and the destruction of ecosystems lead to increasing contact between humans, wildlife and other vectors, creating a higher risk of new disease outbreaks. It is therefore vital that countries are able to properly prepare for and respond to disease outbreaks and other public health emergencies. In West Africa, where many pandemic-prone pathogens are endemic, the infrastructure and capacities required to effectively prevent, treat and respond to outbreaks are still limited. Ensuring the availability of continuous funding, well-equipped laboratories and a sufficient number of trained staff is particularly challenging. The project therefore aims to expand fixed and mobile laboratory preparedness and response capacities for viral haemorrhagic fevers and other emerging viral diseases. Project staff work closely with in-country laboratories and train local staff so that they can perform high-quality diagnostics independently and safely. This will improve overall diagnostic and surveillance capacities and ultimately contribute to reducing the morbidity and mortality of such diseases in West Africa.

Objective

Maintaining and expanding stationary and mobile laboratory infrastructure and capacity for detecting viral haemorrhagic fevers and other emerging viral diseases in sub-Saharan Africa to improve preparedness and response.

Key facts

Duration

1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025

Budget

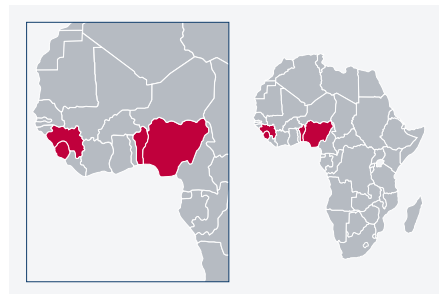
~ EUR 1.8 million

Partner countries

Nigeria, Guinea, Benin, Sierra Leone

Region

Western Africa



Implemented by

Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical
Medicine (BNITM)

Commissioning party

German Federal Ministry of Health
(BMG)

Thematic focus

Strengthening of public health systems

Outbreak management

Laboratory diagnostics

Surveillance and reporting

Clinical management

One Health

Activities



TRAINING AND COMPETENCE DEVELOPMENT

Training laboratory staff to perform high-quality diagnostics independently and safely; workforce development through training and technical guidance on various infectious disease agents



NETWORKING AND COOPERATION

Expanding and strengthening networks of regional laboratories across West African countries



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Improving patient management and disease surveillance through frequent, accurate and rapid diagnostics performed in stationary and mobile laboratories



PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Expanding the range of tests available for various infectious diseases



RESEARCH AND PROVISION OF EVIDENCE

Conducting studies on issues at the interface between humans and natural hosts of zoonotic viruses for the implementation of the One Health approach

In cooperation with

- Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital (ISTH), Nigeria
- Laboratoire des Fièvres Hémorragiques Virales de Guinée (LFHVG), Guinea
- Laboratoire des Fièvres Hémorragiques Virales de Cotonou (LFHV Cotonou), Benin
- Njala University (NU), Department of Environmental Health Sciences, School of Community Health Sciences, Sierra Leone
- Ministries of health of partner countries (see above)
- World Health Organization (WHO), Switzerland
- WHO Regional Office for Africa (WHO/AFRO), Republic of the Congo
- Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN)
- European Civil Protection Pool (ECPP)

Contact

Prof. Stephan Günther

Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine (BNITM)

Bernhard-Nocht-Straße 74,
20359 Hamburg, Germany

gunther@bni.uni-hamburg.de

GHPP, the Global Health Protection Programme of the German Federal Ministry of Health, promotes networking, exchange and cooperation between specialized German and international public health actors. By reducing health risks and strengthening health systems at the national, regional and international level, in particular relating to pandemic and epidemic preparedness and response, the GHPP fosters public health protection – worldwide.



Supported by:



on the basis of a decision
by the German Bundestag