



Building on, building up

Taking the lessons learned in West and Central Africa to strengthen the capacities of National TB programmes in Southern and East Africa to monitor and mitigate impact of global health emergencies on TB service provision

Context

During the fight to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic, many essential health services and operations have been negatively impacted. For example, progress in reducing TB-related morbidity and mortality has been significantly hindered because vital prevention and control mechanisms have been disrupted. Consequently, TB case detection and reporting decreased substantially, and many global TB elimination targets are currently off track. There is an urgent need to reinvigorate national TB programmes (NTBPs), especially in Africa, which accounts for approximately 25% of the global TB burden. The project builds on the achievements of the first funding phase, in which the RKI collaborated with the TDR, the Global TB Programme at WHO, WARN-TB and CARN-TB to strengthen the surveillance capacity of NTBPs and to monitor and mitigate disruptions during COVID-19 and future health emergencies. In this project, the geographical reach of the activities will be expanded to Southern and East Africa. The aim is to establish a regional network bringing together the 19 NTBPs in Southern and East Africa to strengthen TB surveillance and response. Through close collaboration with NTBP coordinators, focal points and monitoring and evaluation staff in 19 target countries, capacities will be built to ensure continued service delivery throughout public health emergencies.

Objective

Strengthening cooperation and enhancing the capacity of national TB surveillance programmes in Southern and East Africa to ensure sustainable TB control and care.

Thematic focus

Strengthening of public health systems

Outbreak management

Surveillance and reporting

Key facts

Duration

1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Budget

~ EUR 260,000

Partner countries / Region

Southern and Eastern Africa



Implemented by

Robert Koch Institute (RKI)

Commissioning party

German Federal Ministry of Health
(BMG)

Activities



NETWORKING AND COOPERATION

Establishing a network bringing together NTBPs in Southern and East Africa as a platform for strengthening cross-border TB surveillance and control and preparing for future outbreaks; raising awareness about the platform established to minimise interruptions in the event of public health emergencies, such as COVID-19



TRAINING AND COMPETENCE DEVELOPMENT

Strengthening communication and cooperation between NTBPs through TB surveillance training, peer support and exchange of best practices, with the aim of harmonising surveillance and control strategies

In cooperation with

- Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (WHO TDR)
- Global Tuberculosis Programme (WHO Global TB Programme)
- West African Regional Network for TB Control (WARN-TB)/Central African Regional Network for TB Control (CARN-TB)
- Health Information Systems Programme (HISP), University of Oslo (UiO)

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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.

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