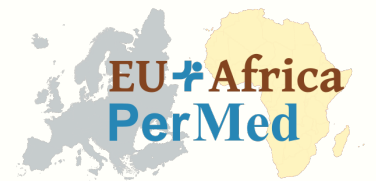


KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme

A Success Story of Africa-Europe Research
Collaboration in Personalised Medicine



Overview

The KEMRI Wellcome Trust Research Programme is a world-renowned health research unit of excellence based in Kenya. It is a partnership which began in 1989 between KEMRI, Wellcome Trust and the University of Oxford.

Other partners include Kilifi County government, Nairobi County Government, Ministry of Health, Kenya and Mbale Regional Referral Hospital, Uganda. Its initial focus was on malaria, which was a major cause of child mortality within its locality, but now, it supports malaria control programs in 14 countries globally. Over the years, the research areas of interest have evolved, which has seen identification of Genomics and Infectious Disease Transmissions research theme added in the Programme. This aims to use genomic tools to enhance understanding of how infectious diseases spread, and informing outbreak control measures. Additionally, it seeks to provide real-time insights into the evolution of resistance to both host immunity and drug treatments.

Funding

Since inception, Wellcome Trust has been the primary funding source, providing support for foundational research platform that leverages additional resources to support individual research projects.



Highlights of the Africa-Europe Collaboration

- **Community driven research needs** - Addresses evolving community health research needs. Originally focused on malaria research, it contributed in drastically lowering malaria prevalence within the neighbouring communities, the program has expanded to tackle emerging challenges, such as pathogen genomics, as evidenced by its response to ebola, COVID-19 pandemic and more recent Mpox.
- **Well established Health and Demographic Surveillance System** - with approximately 290,000 residents having morbidity events captured real time in the population register. It has been used to study childhood infectious disease and association with genetic risk factors such as thalassemia and sickle cell disease.
- **Robust capacity-building program** - Fosters long-term career development, ensuring a sustainable pipeline of skilled researchers. The programs conceptual framework is anchored on "attract, train and retain" with a systematic approach of ensuring that individuals progress along the research career path.

Learn more about the KEMRI Wellcome Trust Research Programme story here: <https://shorturl.at/nnP2m>



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