



Partnership for Building Resilience against Public Health Emergencies through Advanced Research and Education (PREPARE)

Summary

- Public health emergency by infectious diseases remains one of the global challenges. Japan has contributed to improving preparedness and response by sharing its technical expertise and building capacity at core laboratories worldwide.
- JICA launched the Partnership for Building Resilience against Public Health Emergencies through Advanced Research and Education (PREPARE) with purpose of improving capacity of national core laboratories, providing training opportunities for disease control experts, and contributing to regional and global disease control initiatives.

Overview

- Infectious diseases remain a leading cause of deaths globally. Pandemics and epidemics by emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases pose a threat to human security. The outbreak of Ebola virus disease in West Africa in 2014 highlighted the importance of strengthening preparedness and response against public health emergencies especially in the African countries.
- The Government of Japan is committed towards strengthening pandemic preparedness and response. In February 2016, the Government decided “the Basic Policy and Plan on Strengthening Countermeasures for Infectious Diseases that Pose a Threat to Global Society” and stated the promotion of interlinked international and domestic countermeasures as well as the further contributions to the countries and areas where infectious diseases emerge. At the G7 Summit held in May 2016, “G7 Ise Shima Vision for Global Health” was concluded to make efforts to achieve UHC along with other measures including the establishment of a resilient public health systems and preparations for health emergencies. In TICAD VI in August 2016, “the Nairobi Declaration” was adopted in which the Japanese government committed to strengthening capacity for response, prevention and preparedness against public health emergencies in Africa, which contributes towards achieving UHC.
- JICA has a long history of supporting national-level research institutions and laboratories in Africa: Kenya Medical Research Institute, Ghana’s Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research and the School of Veterinary Medicine the University of Zambia. Nowadays these institutions play a leading role in infectious diseases control in the regions and state-of-the-art laboratories and skilled technicians contribute to tackling public health emergencies across countries.
- JICA has launched “Partnership for Building Resilience against Public Health Emergencies through Advanced Research and Education (PREPARE) ” by harnessing the long-standing cooperation with core laboratories in Africa. PREPARE composes three pillars— (i) developing capacity of national core laboratories, (ii) enhancing capacity of disease control experts and (iii) contributing to regional and global disease control initiatives, which will build a solid relationship amongst countries and Japan and will ultimately contribute to establishing a global pandemic preparedness mechanism.

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Developing capacity of national core laboratories

Enhancing capacity of disease control experts

Contributing to regional and global disease control initiatives

Case Studies

Developing capacity of national core laboratories

- Capacity building of infectious disease control, promoting research and education at national laboratories
- With national laboratories, strengthening regional networks and response against public health emergencies and build a solid partnership with institutions in Japan.

Kenya

- <Collaborating institution>
Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI),
- TB Control Advisor (Advisor) 2014~2017
- The Project for Development of Rapid Diagnostics and the Establishment of an Alert System for Outbreaks of Yellow Fever and Rift Valley Fever (SATREPS¹) 2012~2017
- Disease Surveillance Advisor (Advisor) 2019~2021

Ghana

- <Collaborating institution>
Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR)
- Surveillance and Laboratory Support for Emerging Pathogens of Public Health Importance in Ghana (SATREPS) 2016~2021
- The Project for the Construction of Advanced Research Center for Infectious Diseases at Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (Grant aid)

Nigeria

- <Collaborating institution>
Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)
- Project for Strengthening Detection of and Response to Public Health Threats in Nigeria 2019-2023
- The Project for Strengthening the Diagnostic Capacity of Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (Grant aid)

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

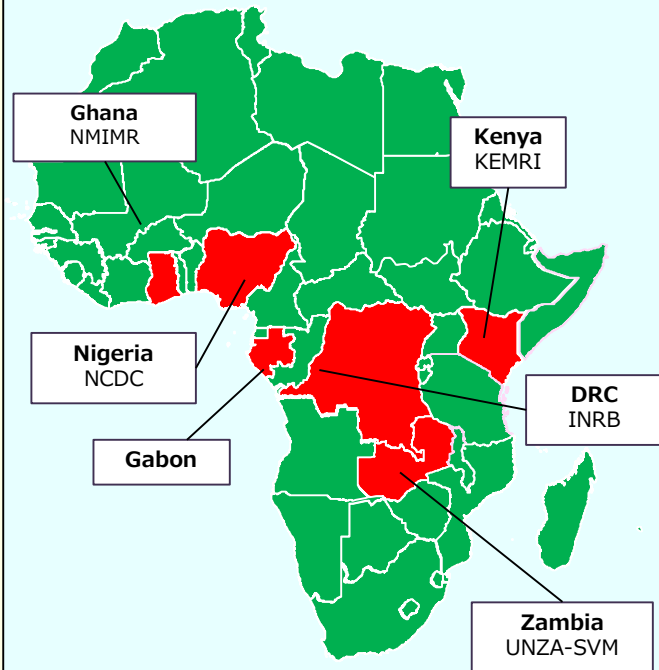
- <Collaborating institution>
National Institute for Research and Biomedical (INRB)
- (The Project of Improvement of National Institute for Research and Biomedical) (Grant Aid) 2019
- The Project for Reinforcement of Infectious Diseases Epidemiological Surveillance System (Technical Cooperation) 2019~2023
- Project for Epidemiology of zoonotic virus infections in Africa (SATREPS) 2019~2024 (DRC & Zambia)

Gabon

- The Project for Establishment of Laboratory Surveillance System for Viral Diseases of Public Health Concern (SATREPS) 2016~21

Zambia

- <Collaborating institution>
School of Veterinary Medicine and the Virology Laboratory at the University of Zambia (UNZA-SVM) and University Teaching Hospital (UTH)
- Project for Surveillance of viral zoonoses in Africa (SATREPS) 2013~18
- Project for Epidemiology of zoonotic virus infections in Africa (SATREPS) 2019~2024 (DRC & Zambia)



Enhancing capacity of disease control experts

- Foster global leaders in the area of infectious disease control in Japan and the third countries to lead promoting research and education at national core laboratories

Training Program in Japan

- Hokkaido University: Doctoral program and post-doctoral programs in infectious disease control (2017~)
- Nagasaki University: Master's program and doctoral program in infectious disease control (2017~)

- Support human resource development for neighboring countries of the partnered laboratories

Regional Training Program (From partnered countries to the region)

- Regional core countries: Egypt in northern Africa, Kenya (KEMRI) in Eastern Africa, Nigeria (NCDC) and Ghana (NMIMR) in Western Africa, Zambia (UNZA-SVM&UTH) in Southern Africa (in planning stage)

Contributing to regional and global disease control initiatives

- Support strengthening networks amongst core laboratories and with global disease control initiatives

Collaboration with Africa Centre for Disease Control (Africa CDC) and participation in international conferences

- Close collaboration with Africa CDC, with the letter of intent for public health partnership in December, 2017.
- Participation in international conferences on pandemic preparedness in African region

1: SATREPS: Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development. SATREPS is implemented through the collaboration with Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED). It aims to promote international joint research in which both Japanese research institutions and those of recipient countries work together based upon the social needs in recipient countries.