



SUPPORT TO WOMEN INFECTED OR VULNERABLE TO HIV/AIDS



AN INTEGRATED CARE PROGRAM: FROM DETECTION TO LONG-TERM ECONOMIC SUPPORT

•**Type of activity:**

Support to patients through the attribution of microloans.

•**Benefiting Regions:**

The Caribbean Region, Haiti (expansion to Africa)

•**Beneficiaries:**

Women infected or in contact with HIV/AIDS

•**Budget:**

80,000 €/year

•**Financing:**

Fondation Mérieux

•**Partners and Contributors:**

The Haitian Study Group on Kaposi's Sarcoma and Opportunistic Infections (GHESKIO) and the Association for Micro Business Development (ACME)

BACKGROUND

In its battle against infectious diseases in developing countries, Fondation Mérieux is committed to providing support to patients upon their return to work. In Haiti, where the rate of HIV/AIDS prevalence among adults is over 2.2%, people who are infected, and having become victims of increased poverty and discrimination, have no access to any economic assistance. The attribution of microloans to women who are infected or at risk, is a means of financially protecting households, of reducing sexual inequality, and of allowing women to view their future other than through disease.

PROJECT SUMMARY

In 2005, GHESKIO, a health care center for those living with HIV/AIDS, in collaboration with ACME, the Association for Micro Business Development, and Fondation Mérieux set up a microloan program aimed at improving the everyday life of women infected or vulnerable to the disease. GHESKIO, responsible for AIDS screening, prevention, and care, advises women on how they can take on a professional activity with the support of microloans sponsored by ACME. This project is unique in that it combines



care and long-term economic support. Since 2005, over 1,000 people have benefited from microloans. The success rate for loan repayments is outstanding (90% of the loans are repaid within 6 months).

OBJECTIVES

This microloan project is intended to help women infected or in contact with HIV/AIDS to increase their income and thus improve their living standards, while receiving health care dispensed by the GHESKIO center.

Thanks to the success of this pilot project, Fondation Mérieux initiatives are now to be expanded to other geographical regions, notably to Sub-Saharan Africa (Mali, Burkina Faso, Senegal). The number of beneficiaries of microloans is expected to rise to 4,000 by 2012.

ACTIVITIES

1. Educating microloan applicants on business management and loan repayments.
2. Education on the prevention of HIV/AIDS transmission
3. Medical follow-up of patients
4. Microloan management
5. Evaluation of the impact of the program since its launch
6. Increase in the number of beneficiaries in Haiti
7. Launch of a similar program in 2 Sub-Saharan African countries

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- The number of beneficiaries satisfied with the program (4,000 in 2012)
- The increase in the number of persons receiving antiretroviral treatment and increase in CD4
- Psychological development of beneficiaries
- The improvement of the living standards of women and their children
- Regularity of income
- Increased household revenues



AN E-PORTAL FOR SHARING OF GOOD PRACTICE AND NETWORKING



GLOBAL LINK FOR ONLINE BIOMEDICAL EXPERTISE

•Type of Activity:

Training and sharing of knowledge

•Benefiting Regions:

Africa, Middle East, Southeast Asia, International

•Beneficiaries:

Biomedical laboratory staff, professionals in vaccinology, public health care professionals

•Current Budget:

150,000 €/year

•Partners and Contributors:

Biologie Sans Frontières, Global Health and Security Initiative (in progress), World Health Organization, University of Geneva



www.globe-network.org

BACKGROUND

One of the aims of Fondation Mérieux is to promote the exchange of knowledge and expertise amongst healthcare professionals through various networks, and to provide training in the area of infectious diseases.

Within this framework a new program, GLOBE, Global Link for Online Biomedical Expertise, was launched in 2007. Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) used in this program will allow knowledge acquiring, networking and exchange amongst field actors and reduce geographic distance and absenteeism.

PROJECT SUMMARY

GLOBE is an online portal oriented towards three themes: diagnosis, surveillance and epidemiology, and vaccinology. For each of these themes, it provides access to training tools, information and resources. These themes are directly related to the priorities and needs of healthcare professionals in developing countries. GLOBE also seeks to develop new themes linked to infectious diseases.

OBJECTIVES

GLOBE aims at reinforcing and capitalizing on expertise and networking between health professionals, using new information and communication technologies.

ACTIVITIES

Each of the three themes has specific objectives :

- **'Diagnosis'** is related to the development and reinforcing of best practices (management, quality and operating procedures) in biomedical laboratories
- **'Epidemiology & Surveillance'** aims to strengthen basic knowledge and dissemination of specific tools required for implementing epidemiologic studies and managing outbreaks, as well as setting up surveillance systems
- **'Vaccinology'** is dedicated to the reinforcement of vaccine awareness and skills, and also to establish local expertise and specific networks for exchanging experiences in this field

GLOBE provides different tools and resources:

- **A web-based network:** a platform for discussions related to principle GLOBE themes and a private working and exchange area for different networks of specialists

- **E-learning:** continuous training of healthcare professionals via interactive modules Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) and courses
- **Resources:** a scientific documentary database giving access to evidence-based and international guidance, reports and articles. Users are encouraged to submit to GLOBE, personal resources to be shared on the portal, in order to participate to the enlargement and the updating of this section.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- **Launch Phase (2009):** Setting up a network of 50 professionals, publishing 10 modules and 30 worksheets and standard procedures, users' satisfaction (design and content of the portal) estimated at 80%
- **Implementation Phase (2010-2011):** Extending and reinforcing the network (200 professionals and 5 private associated networks), developing new training materials (15 modules, 70 worksheets), updating the portal content, integrating new themes and initiating new partnerships.

GLOBE program was launched in close partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), the Non Governmental Organization (NGO) Biologie Sans Frontières (BSF), and the University of Geneva. GLOBE seeks to establish new partnerships with other public health figures as well as ICT specialists relevant to developing countries.





TRAINING FOR SENIOR LABORATORY TECHNICIANS



BACHELOR OF APPLIED MEDICAL SCIENCES

•Type of Activity:

Training and sharing of knowledge

•Benefiting

Regions/Countries:

Africa/Mali (expansion planned)

•Beneficiaries:

Laboratory technicians

•Budget:

150,000 €/year
10,000 € per student

•Financing:

Fondation Mérieux

•Partners and

Contributors:

Catholic University of Lyon,
Faculty of Pharmacy of
Bamako, Health Ministry
of Mali

BACKGROUND

There is a great and urgent need for strengthening laboratory capacity in the majority of low and middle income countries. Robust laboratory systems are essential for accurate diagnosis, cost effective and targeted treatment and public health surveillance.

An in-depth study of the current situation in Mali has revealed weaknesses related to laboratory staff: competencies of health care professionals involved in the diagnosis and follow-up of infectious diseases are often insufficient. There is therefore a need to offer complementary training to laboratory professionals so as to improve the quality of biomedical laboratories.

PROJECT SUMMARY

In cooperation with the Senior School for Technicians in Biochemistry and Biology of the Catholic University of Lyon, in 2007 Fondation Mérieux opened a professional training program for laboratory technicians in Bamako aiming at strengthening capacities of clinical biology in Sub-Saharan Africa. The bachelor degree training program of 8 months awards the equivalent of 60 credits under the ECTS (European credit transfer system). This training welcomes each year 15 to 18 technicians from Mali and nearby countries.

OBJECTIVES

This project aims at improving the health of population in Mali with the help of improved quality diagnosis and more effective treatment. The specific objectives of the project are:

- To improve the skills of biomedical laboratory personnel
- To standardize procedures so that they meet international guidelines
- To promote good laboratory management
- To strengthen the skills of local training staff

This project contributes to the 'Millennium Development Goals' i.e. the fight against HIV, malaria, and other diseases, the improvement of maternal health, and reduction of infant mortality.

ACTIVITIES

Semester 1

Module 1: Cellular biology, Molecular biology
Module 2: Bacteriology 1, Biochemistry 1
Module 3: Parasitology, Hematology
Module 4: Immunology, Hemobiology, Virology

Semester 2

Module 5: Bacteriology 2, Biochemistry 2
Module 6: Epidemiology, Pharmacology
Module 7: Case study
Courses offering alternating theory and practice last 2 semesters.



EVALUATION CRITERIA

- The number of successfully trained technicians
- The number of locally trained teachers
- Results from quality control testing (decrease of diagnostic errors)
- Geographic areas represented by trainees.





STRENGTHENING BIOMEDICAL LABORATORIES IN WEST AFRICA



RESAOLAB (NETWORK OF BIOMEDICAL LABORATORIES OF WEST AFRICA)

•Type of activity:

Training and sharing of knowledge, strengthening of health infrastructures

•Benefiting Countries:

West Africa: Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal (further expansion planned)

•Beneficiaries:

General population, professional laboratory staff, laboratory systems

•Budget:

4 million €

•Funding partners:

French Development Agency (AFD)

•Acting Partners:

Health Ministries of Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, WHO, WAHO

BACKGROUND

In Africa, a heavy toll has been paid for inadequate or inexistent biomedical diagnostic testing, especially with regard to infectious diseases. In the three countries (Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal) where the project is carried out, 300,000 people live with HIV: more than 80% are presently unaware of their condition. Annually, tuberculosis affects 100,000 people, of whom one-third have no access to diagnostic tests. In Senegal, malaria ranks second as the cause of death for all age groups, and in Burkina Faso and Mali it ranks third. Fondation Mérieux has been supporting biological diagnostic facilities in Mali for the last 3 years through a program funded by the European Commission. This current project, called "RESAOLAB" (the network of biomedical laboratories in West Africa) has benefited from this experience and will be expanded. It was created with and in response to the requests of the Ministries of Health of the three countries concerned.

PROJECT SUMMARY

This three-year project has been designed to support a network of biomedical laboratories. It has a budget of four million euros, three of which have been funded by AFD, the French Development Agency, and one million euros by the project leader, Fondation Mérieux. The project is based on the three fundamental aspects that constitute a network of laboratories: professional training of staff, quality management, and epidemiological surveillance. The Ministries of Health and their respective Heads of the Laboratory/Drug Departments are closely associated with this project. The World Health Organization and the West African Health Organization are members of the project's steering committee.



OBJECTIVES

The end purpose of this project is to improve the state of health of the people in Mali, Senegal, and Burkina Faso through the creation of stronger networks of biomedical laboratories within each of these three countries and by the implementation of a network among them. This project is

aimed at improving the quality of services that laboratories offer in these three pilot countries, and this is expected to be ultimately expanded to other West African countries.

ACTIVITIES

The main activities of the RESAOLAB project are to standardize and decentralize professional training for laboratory staff, to reinforce quality assurance with defined standards, and to provide support to the surveillance system in conjunction with WHO.

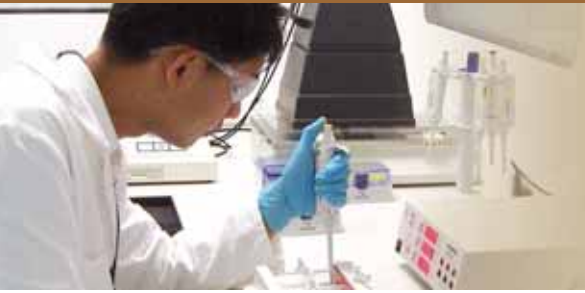
Investment in the renewal of national and regional laboratories is necessary to support standardized facilities used for educational and quality control purposes. Competencies will be shared among each of the three countries and a sub regional network of laboratories will be set up to launch harmonized practices among the countries involved.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

At the end of the project:

- 45 instructors were trained to lead training sessions
- 300 technicians took 9 modules of professional training
- The number of patients who visited the laboratories increased by 20% before the end of the project
- 4 laboratories in each country set standards for education and quality assurance.





ORGANIZING AN INTERNATIONAL BIOLOGY NETWORK



ORGANIZING AN INTERNATIONAL BIOLOGY NETWORK

•**Type of activity:**

Strengthening health infrastructures, training and knowledge sharing

•**Beneficiary**

regions/countries:

Africa, Middle East, South-East Asia, Haiti, worldwide

•**Targets:**

General population, laboratory staff, public health staff

•**Current budget:**

Depending on project

•**Partners and**

Contributors:

Fondation Christophe et Rodolphe Mérieux



BACKGROUND

Public health professionals in developing countries face widely varying biological facilities that are often insufficient and unsuitable for local needs and that are unable to provide good quality diagnostics or conduct applied research in optimal conditions.

Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratories aim to respond to local infectious priorities through the development of clinical and applied research activity in molecular and medical biology.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

In partnership with governmental healthcare specialists and local professionals, Fondation Mérieux renovates, establishes and equips biology laboratories meeting international quality standards. It trains the managers of these units and technicians who will work there. It also provides expert advice in conducting applied research programs in these laboratories, which form an international network as part of the GABRIEL program.

AIMS

The Foundation aspires to enhance the biological facilities of developing countries by providing them with world-class laboratories aimed at both applied research and training. The Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratories are intended to become references in their region and extend their influence across the entire region. Located near to or as part of medical schools, they are available to students for work on pathologies specific to their country.

The longer-term objective is for local healthcare professionals to make use of these applied research laboratories and be self-sufficient with regard to their public health needs.

ACTIVITIES

The Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratories focus on the following areas:

- Perform complex medical tests not currently available locally, without competing with existing local laboratories
- Support research programs (for example AIDS and multiresistant tuberculosis research in Haiti)
- Conduct their own epidemiological research programs
- Improve biological training by setting up long-term partnerships between public hospital laboratories and universities.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Enhance research and training capacities in developing countries
- Improve medical biology with new, high-speed, high-performance diagnostic methods
- Set up a network of biology laboratories, in relation with other public health partners.





PROGRAM OF GRANTS FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES IN AFRICA



PROGRAM OF GRANTS FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES IN AFRICA

•Type of Activity:

Training, research

•Beneficiary

regions/countries:

Sub-Saharan Africa

•Beneficiaries:

African researchers

•Budget:

50,000 € for doctoral and 100,000 € for post-doctoral researchers

•Financing:

Fondazione Cariplo, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Nuffield Foundation, Volkswagen Stiftung and Fondation Mérieux

<http://www.ntd-africa.net>

BACKGROUND

Neglected tropical diseases include infectious diseases such as schistosomiasis, trypanosomiasis, helminthiasis, filariasis... They affect over one billion people around the world, primarily in Africa and, in most cases, underprivileged populations living in tropical and subtropical climates. As well as their consequences on health, neglected tropical diseases cause an endless cycle of poverty and stigma that prevents sufferers from earning a living, attending school or enjoying a family and social life. While AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria have drawn the world's attention, donors, deciders and public health authorities have shown much less interest in other infectious diseases, despite their invalidity and fatality rates. Bringing these neglected tropical diseases under control would, however, represent a genuine development opportunity and a means of reducing poverty around the world, thus making a direct contribution to the Millennium Objectives for Development.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Five European foundations – Fondazione Cariplo, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Nuffield Foundation, Volkswagen Stiftung and Fondation Mérieux – have launched a program of grants for young scientists working on these diseases in African research centers. Two types of grants are awarded:

- 3-year junior grants for young post-doctoral researchers
- 3-year extended grants for more experienced researchers.

Additional support may be available to enable grant recipients to progress from post-doctoral research positions to research group leaders.

The grants are awarded during an international conference in Africa, following a particularly rigorous selection process.

OBJECTIVES

The program aims to promote applied research projects whose results can quickly be applied by deciders and healthcare professionals. Its objective is to give new resources to junior researchers in their work against neglected tropical diseases and encourage them to form part of a network.

The program encourages cooperation between African and European research facilities; grant recipients choose which European establishment they wish to work with and their intended research subjects.

ACTIVITIES

- The grants cover operational translational research subjects: public health issues linked to the prevention and treatment of neglected tropical diseases, and in particular subjects stemming from social science specialists such as medical anthropologists and biomedical researchers
- An associated supervision program enables grant recipients to build links with scientists in Africa and around the world, and attend short training sessions on topics such as project elaboration, written and oral communication of research results...

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Number of given grants
- Number of training sessions
- Number of trained persons.





STRENGTHENING OF LOCAL LABORATORIES RESEARCH CAPACITIES



GABRIEL GLOBAL APPROACH FOR BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH ON INFECTIOUS EPIDEMICS IN LOW INCOME COUNTRIES

•**Type of activity:**

Applied research, Training, Technology transfer

•**Beneficiary regions/countries:**

Africa (Madagascar, Mali), America (Brazil, Haiti), Asia (Cambodia, Laos)

•**Beneficiaries:**

Scientists, Research laboratories, Hospitals, Ministries of Public Health

•**Partners:**

Depending on project

•**Partners and Contributors:**

Antananarivo University of Madagascar, Centre Charles Mérieux in Mali, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, Institute of Pathogen Biology in China, Faculty of Pharmacy of Phnom Penh in Cambodia, Fast-Track Diagnostics in Luxembourg, Luminex Molecular Diagnostics in Canada, GHESKIO Centres in Haiti, Laotian Ministry of Health, Oswaldo Cruz Institute in Brazil, bioMérieux in France, Paediatric Intensive Care Unit of the "Women- Mother-Child Hospital" in France

BACKGROUND

The strengthening of local laboratory research capacities is vitally needed to prevent and diagnose infectious diseases, and to improve the quality of health care services. Experience has shown that research systems in developing countries often cannot fulfill their own needs due to a lack of locally-adapted technologies, inadequate research and management skills, and insufficient coordination between research institutions. Moreover, research institutes in developing countries often encounter difficulties when they wish to join international research programs and mobilize external funds.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Created in 2008 by Fondation Mérieux, GABRIEL (Global Approach for Biological Research on Infectious Epidemics in Low income countries) is a network that brings together laboratories in developed and developing countries.

These laboratories work jointly on research projects that deal with infectious diseases having significant impact on public health. They also carry out epidemiological studies that lead to improved surveillance of circulating pathogens. An efficient network of laboratories contributes to the rapid identification of emerging and re-emerging pathogens that are the cause of epidemics.

OBJECTIVES

The global objective is to assist developing countries in improving their laboratory-based capacity for the detection, characterization and surveillance of pathogens, and to conduct epidemiological studies in the fields of lower respiratory tract infectious diseases and TB drug resistance.

The specific objectives of the GABRIEL network are

- To improve the control, prevention, and treatment of infectious diseases by conducting epidemiological studies through local partnerships
- To provide new laboratory tests for the surveillance of pathogens in developing countries
- To transfer technology that identifies and characterizes newly circulating pathogens, such as emerging, mutant, or resistant strains

- To help developing countries to rapidly identify emerging and re-emerging pathogens during the first days of an epidemic
- To strengthen capacities of local scientists so that they can autonomously conduct research projects.

ACTIVITIES

In the initial phase, the main activities of the GABRIEL network are

- Technological transfer and support
- Scientific support:
 - Through expertise in infectious diseases
 - By developing assays for the detection of pathogens
 - By providing diagnostic tools adapted to the needs and constraints of developing countries
- Research training of local scientists and technicians
- Identification of unknown pathogens with discovery technologies
- Creation of national networks with public health laboratories, and regional and rural care centers to shared knowledge
- Development of an online portal in order to share information and experimental results among the network members.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- The number of epidemiological studies,
- Publications
- Transferred technologies
- Trained scientists.



www.gabriel-network.org

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DETECTION AND SURVEY OF ACUTE LOWER RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS



STRENGTHENING LABORATORY-BASED RESEARCH CAPACITIES FOR THE DETECTION AND SURVEYS OF ALRI AND ITS TRENDS IN LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES

•Type of activity:

Applied research,
technology transfer

•Benefiting regions / countries:

Africa (Madagascar, Mali),
America (Haiti), Asia
(Cambodia, Laos)

•Beneficiaries:

Scientists, research
laboratories, ministries
of public health

•Partners:

Centre Charles Mérieux in
Mali, Chinese Academy of
Medical Sciences, Faculty
of Medicine of Phnom Penh
in Cambodia, GHESKIO
Centres in Haiti, Laotian
Ministry of Health,
Antananarivo University of
Madagascar

BACKGROUND

Acute Lower Respiratory Infections, i.e. viral or bacterial bronchiolitis and pneumonia, represent a major public health problem because of their worldwide occurrence, ease of spread in the community and considerable morbidity and mortality. The most recent estimates of infant mortality due the ARLI are higher than 2 millions per year, most of them in developing countries. In adults and children with pneumonia, an etiologic agent can only be identified in not more than 50% cases with conventional techniques. Until now, there is considerably less data available on the role of viral pathogens in pneumonia. An accurate and early etiologic identification is important because specific therapies are used against certain bacteria and viruses.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In January 2008, Fondation Mérieux created the international research network GABRIEL including partners from developing and industrialized countries. As part of its research activities, GABRIEL concentrates on ALRI through three main activities: development and validation of tools for epidemiological and typing studies using a syndrome-based approach; discovery of appropriate bio-markers for the study of respiratory infections as well as training and transfer of technologies adapted to research in developing countries.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the project is to provide laboratories in low-income countries with means to conduct epidemiological surveys for the evaluation of Acute Lower Respiratory Infections' prevalence and of its trend in order to improve patient's care.

The specific objectives are

- Provide knowledge and understanding on the role of viruses and bacteria in the origin of diseases in correlation with the host response
- Promote better patient management appropriate use of antibiotics and other therapeutic approaches
- Provide epidemiological information which can contribute to improve influenza and pneumococcal vaccines

- Establish the impact of viral and bacterial co-detection in the severity of pneumonia
- Detect new emerging respiratory pathogens representing a public health threat and improve their surveillance.

ACTIVITIES

The main activities are:

- To set up, evaluate, validate and transfer molecular tests intended for the identification of pathogens responsible for ALRI
- To identify and characterize new pathogens or emerging mutants and correlate them with the diagnosis of the patient's pathology
- To conduct epidemiological studies, including the impact of co-infection in disease severity.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Number of epidemiological studies
- Publications
- Transferred technologies
- Trained scientists.





FIGHT AGAINST DRUG RESISTANCE



EVALUATION OF MDR-TB AND XDR-TB PREVALENCE

•Type of activity:

Applied research, technology transfer

•Benefiting regions / countries:

Africa (Madagascar, Mali), America (Haiti), Asia (Cambodia, Laos)

•Beneficiaries:

Scientists, research laboratories, ministries of public health

•Partners:

Centre Charles Mérieux in Mali, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine of Phnom Penh in Cambodia, GHESKIO Centres in Haiti, Laotian Ministry of Health, Hain-lifescience, Antananarivo University of Madagascar, Institut Pasteur of Madagascar

BACKGROUND

According to WHO the number of multi-drug resistant (MDR) tuberculosis cases is occurring with nearly half a million new cases of MDR-TB a year. In 2008, 55 countries have notified extensively drug resistant TB (XDR) cases. Evaluating drug resistant tuberculosis prevalence and trends is a key component of the DOTS Plus strategy of Stop-TB and is necessary to implement a correct management, at national and international levels, of new TB cases and previously treated patients. Most developing countries do not have sufficient means to conduct rigorous and sustained epidemiological surveys. Currently, Drug Susceptibility Testing (DST) is most often done by culture which has several drawbacks: long time-to-result, strong bio-safety requirements (BSL-3), costly equipments and infrastructures. Molecular tests based on PCR and hybridization for first-line drugs help overcoming these difficulties. Their use has been evaluated in some developing countries and is recommended by WHO. Beyond first-line drugs, the lack of well-characterized, broad based molecular drug resistance data represents a missed opportunity for gaining new insights into the biology and evolution of drug resistance and the conditions that impact it.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In order to facilitate tuberculosis Drug Susceptibility Testing, molecular based technologies are transferred to laboratories in low-income countries. These laboratories are part of the international network called GABRIEL (Global Approach for Biological Research on Infectious Epidemics in Low-income countries) that is set up by Fondation Mérieux to improve the identification and surveillance of infectious diseases.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the project is to provide GABRIEL laboratories with means to conduct epidemiological surveys for the evaluation of MDR-TB and XDR-TB prevalence and of its trend.

The specific objectives are:

- To implement molecular Drug Resistance Susceptibility for first line drugs
- To understand the biology of resistance and the relationship between specific mutations and conventional drug susceptibility results
- To develop rapid molecular-based laboratory tools for the diagnostic of resistant TB, covering all antibiotics.

ACTIVITIES

The main activities are currently:

- Technological transfer of molecular based test for the diagnosis of MDR-TB
- Research training of local scientists and technicians
- Partnering with National TB Programs and regional stakeholders
- Epidemiological surveys in countries or regions of the GABRIEL network to evaluate MDR prevalence and its trend

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Number of epidemiological studies
- Publications
- Transferred technologies
- Trained scientists.





HEALTH SOLIDARITY FUND FOR STREET CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO CARE



**MALI,
SENEGAL,
MADAGASCAR,
HAITI**

•**Type of activity:**
patient support

•**Region/beneficiary country:**
Mali, Senegal,
Madagascar, Haiti

•**Target:**
Street children from
0 to 18 years old

•**Budget:**
5000 to 20,000 euros per
year and country

•**Financing:**
Fondation Mérieux

•**Implementation partners:**
Samu Social, Little
brothers and little sisters
of Incarnation Haiti,
Regional Hospital of
Reunion Island

BACKGROUND

In developing countries, thousands of children live in the street lacking any bearing or tie. They are deprived of support, protection, affection as well as being completely excluded from the health, social and educational systems.

They are often exploited and vulnerable to prostitution, rape and drug abuse.

Due to the hardships of their daily life (violence, accidents, lack of hygiene), these children suffer from a large number of health problems including: wounds and trauma, sexually transmitted disease, HIV, tuberculosis, malaria.

With the exception of support from associations, these children do not have any access to medical care.

Thus, the project aims at improving the health of street children.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Fondation Mérieux supports the medical activities of locales organizations and their efforts toward helping street children, through a health solidarity fund.

This fund allows children excluded from the health system to benefit from a fundamental right: the access to health. The fund will supplement the cost of medical consultations, medical analysis, drugs and hospitalizations.

This fund helps to reinforce the quality of the health services offered by local partners of Fondation Mérieux or by health services working in close cooperation with these partners.

OBJECTIVES

General objective:

- To improve the health of street children

Specific objectives:

- To increase the number of children who have access to medical consultations and hospitalizations
- To increase the number of medical analysis available for street children in order to allow a better diagnosis
- To allow better access to treatment for street children
- To reduce risky sexual behaviors thanks to HIV/STD/reproductive health prevention activities.

ACTIVITIES

- Basic care released in the street and in the Samu Social centres
- Medical care in the street, the Samu Social centres and the partner centres
- Children are sent to laboratories and the cost of medical analysis is fully paid by the fund
- Drug supply and follow up treatments (malaria, TB, STD...)
- Conventions with the hospitals to reduce the cost of hospitalizations.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Compared to the needs:

- Number of children who have access to medical consultations
- Number of children who benefit from medical analysis
- Number of children who benefit from a treatment
- Number of children hospitalized.

