

GELA Project launched to enhance evidence-informed guideline recommendations for newborn and child health in sub-Saharan African countries

“Despite progress in the health of newborns and children, most sub-Saharan African countries have not met the Sustainable Development Goals for under-five mortality,” said Tamara Kredo of Cochrane SA. “The consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic are being felt on health systems and services, hampering healthcare delivery to children and increasing poverty, food insecurity and inequity. To address this, policy makers and practitioners not only need evidence-based guidance on effective clinical care, they also need guidance on how to implement this care efficiently within their health systems.”

To tackle some of these challenges, the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) has awarded three-year funding to a partnership coordinated by Cochrane SA, with partners from the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Western Norway University of Applied Science, Stellenbosch University, Cochrane Nigeria at the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital, Kamuzu University of Health Sciences, Malawi, Cochrane and the Stiftelsen MAGIC Evidence Ecosystem, Norway. The project is part of the EDCTP2 programme supported by the European Union (grant number RIA2020S-3303-GELA).

The project is titled Global Evidence, Local Adaptation (GELA) and aims to enhance evidence-informed guideline recommendations for newborn and young child health in South Africa, Malawi and Nigeria. GELA will support decision makers and build on and add value to the large-scale programme of child-health guideline development led by the World Health Organization, with adaptation and implementation led by the WHO Afro regional office, country offices and national ministries and the civil society group, Peoples Health Movement.

GELA will incorporate a multi-faceted, multidisciplinary research and capacity-strengthening programme using primary and secondary research, guideline-adaptation methodology and digital platforms to support delivery and dynamic local adaptation.

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The EDCTP is a public-public partnership between countries in Europe and sub-Saharan Africa, supported by the European Union. EDCTP focuses on enhancing research capacity and accelerating the development of new or improved medical interventions for the identification, treatment and prevention of poverty-related infectious diseases, including emerging and re-emerging diseases in sub-Saharan Africa, through all phases of clinical trials, with emphasis on phase II and III trials.