



Communications Plan

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EDCTP



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**National Institute for
Health Research**

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Goals

- To ensure effective communication between ALERRT Partners, Clinical Study sites and project stakeholders
- To ensure policies and plans are in place to facilitate publication, dissemination and exploitation of research outcomes
- To disseminate the project results and findings to the wider scientific and medical communities as well as policy makers and the public in Africa and beyond.
- To ensure any important findings are incorporated into existing clinical research and practice for the benefit of research and public health
- To highlight the activities of ALERRT in outbreak research response.

Target Groups

Healthcare providers; this includes the local organisations and staff responsible for providing patient care and patient management (e.g. clinics, hospitals, NGOs). Their primary interest is in using the clinical evidence as input for improving patient level decisions (e.g. who to treat, who is at risk, appropriate treatment regimen, preventive measures).

Public health authorities: this includes local, national, and international government health authorities and institutions and staff (e.g., ministries of Health, WHO, Africa CDC). Their primary interest is in using the clinical evidence as input for improving the design and implementation of public health interventions (e.g., disease and outbreak surveillance, infection prevention and control measures, antibiotic stewardship, stockpiling of antivirals, vaccination campaigns, travel and trade recommendations, public communication messaging).

Clinical research community: this includes the clinical researchers within the communities of practice established by ALERRT as well as the international scientific research community in the field of epidemic disease-related research. Their primary interest is in the results from ALERRT's clinical research studies and the clinical data and samples for use in further research, as well as the research tools and methodology developed for further uptake in their research settings.

Private and public sector product developers: this includes companies developing and marketing diagnostic technologies and tools, vaccines, and drugs in infectious diseases, and public bodies such as BARDA and CEPI. Their primary interest lies in the results from ALERRT's clinical research studies, for further uptake into their R&D pipelines. They also have a general interest in the clinical research infrastructure as a platform for conducting GCP compliant clinical phase I-IV studies, relevant for the health needs of Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), active in fields of relevance to epidemic disease preparedness and response such as Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) and similar NGOs active in SSA.

Patients/public: The ultimate users of the ALERRT results are the **patients and public**.

Communication channels

Peer reviewed publications

The results of the project will be disseminated via publications in international peer-reviewed scientific journals and in abstracts of national and international conferences. Details of the pre-publication/submission review process for the dissemination of results is addressed in the consortium agreement (8.4.2). ALERRT will adopt an open access strategy based on the gold and green standards.

Before publication, the consortium members will enquire about publisher's publishing /copyright /licensing policy. If the publishers' policy does not allow compliance with EU requirements for open access, the authors will try to negotiate an amendment or request an authorization to self-archive. Scientific publications will be made available to the scientific and lay communities via the online repositories of ALERRT and its partners, respecting embargo periods.

All publications will be sent to the coordinating centre once accepted in order to:

1. Disseminate to the wider ALERRT consortium
2. Make available on the ALERRT intranet
3. Record the publication for reporting to the EDCTP

Publications and authorship will follow the International committee of Medical journal editors (ICMJE) guidelines (<http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/defining-the-role-of-authors-and-contributors.html>).

As a general principle, publication can never threaten or delay in any way the rapid distribution of clinical evidence in support of a clinical care or public health response to epidemic disease outbreaks. In an emergency disease outbreak situation, as determined by the Executive Committee ("Emergency"), fast-track dissemination will be permitted.

Website and online media

The ALERRT main website at <http://www.alerrt.global> serves to;

- Inform all stakeholders about the goals and work of ALERRT
- Update audiences regarding news and results relating to ALERRT.
- Provide general information on ALERRT's training and capacity-building activities. More detailed information and resources on capacity building are available at <https://alerrt.tghn.org>.

Internal communication between partners is through the ALERRT SharePoint site.

We will support the set up and curation of a social media presence for Twitter, newsletters and other media platforms drawing content from the network members.

ALERRT will further leverage reach of its communications through social media platforms of its members, and affiliated stakeholders such as GloPID-R, WHO, Africa CDC, ISARIC, PREPARE and others. This will increase coherency of communications across the networks, and aid synergy between partners. An inventory of the communication channels used by our partners can be found in Annexe 1.

In highlighting outbreak research, ALERRT will use the mechanism most compatible with the communication wishes of national authorities, and those working with communications will need to be aware of potential contextual sensitivities. There may be cases where an email to a pre-defined list of subscribers is more appropriate than a social medial communication or widespread newsletter.

Conferences and events

ALERRT will ensure participation in key scientific conferences, such as ESCMID, ASTMH, ICREID, EDCTP fora, and regional meetings. This includes through submitted scientific abstracts, as well as hosting or participating in symposia, and securing speaking roles at conferences with themes including technical laboratory, clinical research, medical humanitarian, epidemic control and community engagement. Special efforts will be made to ensure that non-academic groups are

reached through these conferences. ALERRT will encourage its researchers who speak at scientific conferences and symposia to include ALERRT work in their presentations.

ALERRT will also host technical meetings around particular scientific or product development-related topics, as relevant. ALERRT will also engage in meetings hosted by the African CDC and its relevant partners to facilitate interaction with stakeholders in Africa.

Community engagement groups

In alignment with the set-up of the ALERRT Communities of Practice, we will set up a connected network of community engagement groups (CEGs, making use of existing community interest, civil society and religious groups). These CEGs function as discussion fora for direct interaction on various aspects of concern to the public such as vaccination, informed consent, research strategies and findings and to support feedback loops for concerns. The composition of these groups will be highly diverse, with local stakeholders including formal community leadership, as well as informal influencers.

Special effort will be made to ensure that women, youth, people with disabilities, people living with HIV and representatives of civil society groups are included. The size of the groups will be no more than 30. Key discussion topics are as above, related to the ALERRT research strategies and findings, requests of the community for supports, selection of participants, reimbursements etc.

Branding and Funder acknowledgement (Logo, fonts and visual representation of ALERRT online and in print)

ALERRT needs to be acknowledged in all external communication (media materials, website articles, scientific publications, courses etc.) using the following wording:

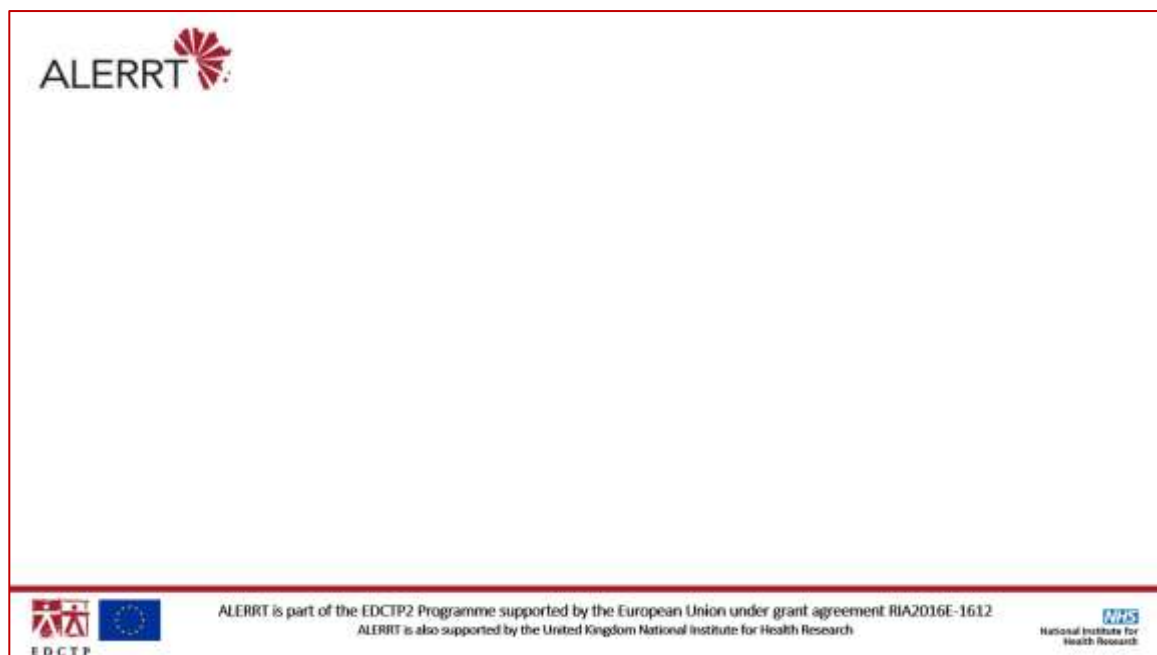
ALERRT is part of the EDCTP2 programme supported by the European Union under grant agreement RIA2016E-1612.

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The PowerPoint templates and logo are available on the ALERRT SharePoint site (see also below). Partners are reminded to use these in preparation for external communications and making reference to the EDCTP funding stream.

Presentation template:

Available to download on the ALERTT SharePoint site:



Logos:

1. ALERTT logo to be placed on all ALERTT-related communications.



2. EDCTP logo to be placed on all ALERTT-related communications. The logo must never be smaller than 22.5 mm on each side.



3. EU emblem to be placed on all ALERTT-related communications. The minimum height of the EU emblem is 10 mm.



4. The United Kingdom National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) logo to be placed on all ALERTT-related communications. However, the EDCTP logo and EU emblem must have prominence.



Funding information to be placed on all ALERTT-related communications:

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Fonts:

Text font for website and print: Roboto ([Google font](#))

ALERTT Colour Palette:



168
25
38



0
161
154



232
114
0



143
126
20



252
191
51



42
112
80

Annexes

Annexe 1: Inventory of partner communication channels

Partners

1. University of Oxford

ERGO Twitter - @ERGO_Horby
TropMed Twitter - @TropMedOxford
Oxford Twitter - @UniofOxford
YouTube - oxford

2. Réseau Africain de Recherche sur le SIDA (RARS), Senegal

Website - <http://www.imea.fr/le-site-anrs-senegal-la-recherche-virologique>

3. Uganda National Health Research Organisation (UNHRO), Uganda

Twitter – @unhro
Website - <https://unhro.org.ug/>

4. University of Yaoundé I (UYI), Cameroun

Website - <http://www.uy1.uninet.cm/>
Twitter - @UnivYaounde1

5. Institut Pasteur, France

Website - <https://www.pasteur.fr/en>
Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/InstitutPasteur>
Twitter - @institutpasteur
YouTube - institutpasteurvideo

6. London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, (LSHTM), United Kingdom

Website - <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/>
Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/LSHTM>
Twitter - <https://twitter.com/LSHTM>
YouTube – TheLSHTM

7. Prins Leopold Instituut voor Tropische Geneeskunde, Belgium

Website - <https://www.itg.be/>
Facebook - @IGITMANTWERP
Vimeo - <https://vimeo.com/itma>

8. Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana

Website – www.knust.edu.gh
Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/KNUSTksi/>
Twitter - <https://twitter.com/knustgh?lang=en-gb>

9. Institut Pasteur de Dakar, Senegal

Website - <http://www.pasteur.sn/>

10. Centre Pasteur du Cameroun, Cameroun

Website - <https://www.pasteur-yaounde.org/index.php/fr/>

11. Institut Pasteur de Madagascar, MadagascarWebsite – <http://www.pasteur.mg/>Twitter – <https://twitter.com/pasteurMG>**12. Institut Pasteur de Bangui, Central African Republic**Website – <https://pasteur-bangui.org/>

Twitter – @I_P_Bangui

Facebook – @Institut.Pasteur.de.Bangui

13. Institut Pasteur de Cote d'Ivoire, Cote d'IvoireWebsite – <http://www.pasteur.ci/>

Facebook – @IntitutPasteurDeCoteDIvoire

14. The Alliance for International Medical Action, FranceWebsite – <https://www.alima-ngo.org/en/>

Facebook – @alimaong

Twitter – @ALIMA_ORG

15. Bernhard-Nocht-Institut für Tropenmedizin, GermanyWebsite – <https://www.bnitm.de/en/>

Facebook – @BNITM

Twitter – @BNITM_de

16. Université Paris Descartes, FranceWebsite – <https://www.parisdescartes.fr/en/homepage/>Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/UniversiteParisDescartes/>

Twitter – @UParisDescartes

YouTube – https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxrGVaerlc_aNSnF2eAZbzQ/featured**17. Association pour le Développement de l'Enseignement et de la Recherche auprès des universités, des centres de recherche et des entreprises d'Aquitaine (ADERA), France**Website – <http://www.adera.fr/>

Twitter – @Adera_Aquitaine

YouTube – <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPSaucZjyihUuC2CjjEZcYg>**18. Association PAC-CI, Cote d'Ivoire**Website – <https://www.pac-ci.org/>**19. Institut Nationale de Recherche Biomedicale (INRB), Democratic Republic of the Congo**Website – <https://inrb.net/>

Twitter – @inrb_kinshasa

Facebook – @kinshasainrb

Networks of excellence

1. WANATAM

Website - <https://wanetam.org/>

Twitter - @wanetam_org

Facebook - @wanetam.org

2. CANTAM

Website - <http://www.cantam.org/>

Twitter - @Cantam_Network

Facebook - @CantamOfficiel

3. EACCR

Website - <https://eaccr.org/>

Twitter – @EACCCR2

Facebook - @EACCCR2

Annexe 2: Publishable Summary (A4)

Please see attached.

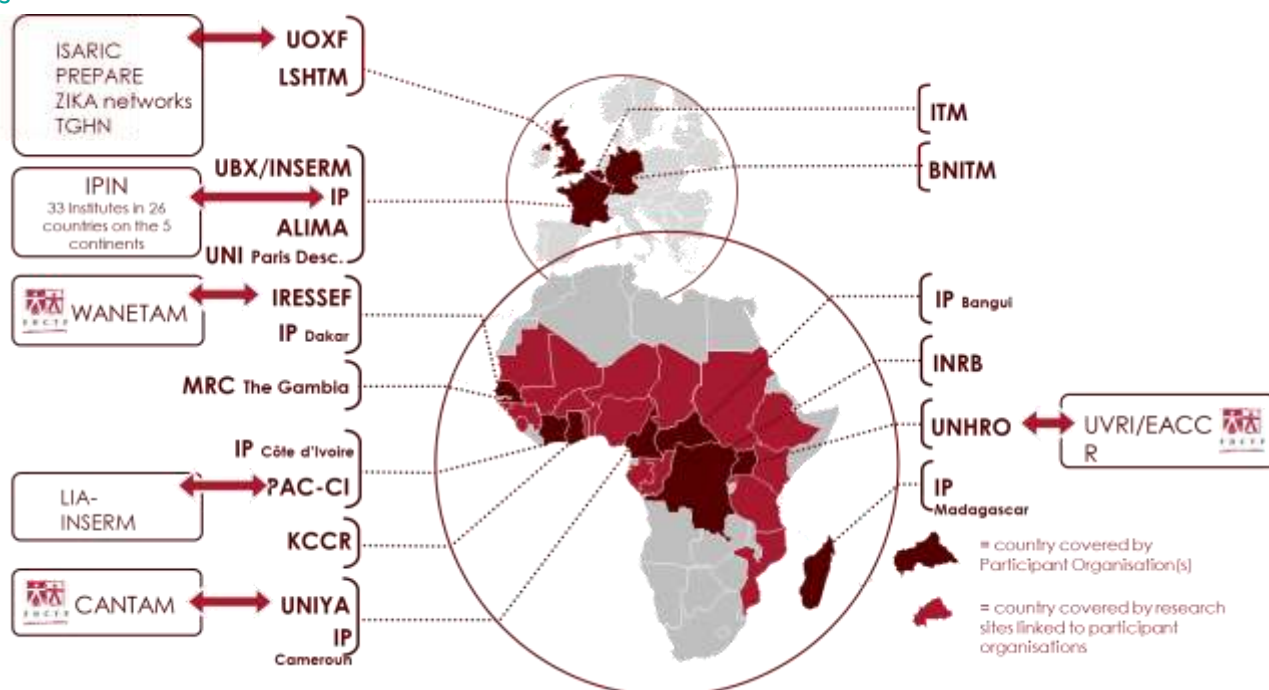
Overview

- ALERRT (African coalition for Epidemic Research, Response and Training) aims to reduce the public health and socio-economic impact of disease outbreaks in Sub Saharan Africa (SSA) by building a sustainable clinical and laboratory research preparedness and response network.
- ALERRT consists of 19 partner organisations from 13 countries.
- ALERRT has been awarded a five-year, €10,000,000 grant from EDCTP starting on 01 December 2017

Objectives

1. To establish a clinical research network that can design and rapidly implement ICH-compliant, high quality, large-scale, multi-site clinical studies in preparation for and response to outbreaks in SSA.
2. To establish a laboratory network with the capabilities to provide integrated support to clinical research in preparation for and response to outbreaks in SSA.
3. To develop and implement a scalable, GCP-compliant, robust data management/ICT infrastructure suitable for resource-poor settings in SSA.
4. To establish a 'response framework' that alleviates administrative, regulatory and ethical bottlenecks and ensures ALERRT can act swiftly to initiate research.
5. To enhance and maintain the operational research capacity of the ALERRT network by developing and implementing a training and capacity development programme.
6. To ensure that the actions of the network are relevant to, accepted and supported by local communities and that the results of the networks' efforts have a sustainable impact on health through improved clinical practice and public health policy.
7. To establish ALERRT as a sustainable SSA network that is linked to international networks and that synergises with, and contributes to, global health-security efforts.

Partners



For more information: info@alerrt.global