

## **Fight against Neglected Tropical Diseases (Lutte contre les maladies tropicales négligées)**

The project « Lutte contre les maladies tropicales négligées » focuses on the control and elimination of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) in the CEMAC region. It is implemented by the « Organisation de Coordination pour la lutte contre les Endémies en Afrique centrale » (OCEAC) in Yaoundé, Cameroon, and funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through the KfW Development Bank. The Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH) acts as technical consultant and supports OCEAC in the implementation of the project.

**The objectives** of the project are:

1. Support of interventions to control or eliminate NTDs
2. Local NTD research capacity building through PhD student fellowships

**Project countries:** Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea (only PhD student fellowships)

**Duration of the project:** October 2017 – September 2021 (4 years)

Intervention projects must focus on one or several NTDs as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO), complement existing funding, and be aligned with relevant national strategic plans. Major capital investments are not supported. Proposals can be submitted by national programs, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or consortia. Projects can focus on a specific target group (e.g. displaced populations), subnational region (including cross-boundary regions), or one or several countries.

PhD students must be nationals of the project countries, supervised by a qualified professor from a local university and co-supervised by an external professor (e.g. Europe, Western Africa, South Africa). All disciplines are eligible for funding but the research topic must be of direct relevance to NTD treatment, control or elimination in Central Africa.

**Selection of projects and students:** Calls for proposals (both intervention projects and PhD student fellowships) will be published along with specific conditions and guidelines on how to apply. Eligible proposals will then be vetted and ranked by an independent expert committee. While intervention project coordinators and students with their supervisors will be fully responsible to implement projects according to their specific contract with the funder, OCEAC will rigorously monitor the project implementation. Also, an annual meeting will be organized by OCEAC to review progress made in every supported intervention project, and bring together the intervention project coordinators, PhD students, supervisors and other relevant stakeholders. In addition, a summer school will be offered to students to support their academic training.

### **Important dates:**

- January – February 2018: Country consultations and information sessions
- March – April 2018: publication of first call (intervention projects and PhD student fellowships) and submission of proposals
- May – June 2018: review of proposals by expert committee
- July 2018 and onwards: implementation of projects
- March – April 2019: publication of second call (intervention projects)
- May – June 2019: review of proposals by expert committee
- July – August 2019, 2020, 2021: first, second and final annual meeting and summer school