

# Health Research for Policy Making: The Ifakara Health Institute



## Project full name:

Health research for policy making: The Ifakara Health Institute (IHI)

## Domain:

Health

## Phase VI:

2013 - 2018

## SDC contribution:

CHF 3'350'000

## Total phase budget:

CHF 50 million

## Implementing partner:

Ifakara Health Institute (IHI)

## Partners:

- Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHCDGEC)
- Irish Aid
- DfID
- NORAD
- Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH)
- University of Basel
- Canton of Basel-Stadt
- R. Geigy Foundation

## For more information:

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## Project Overview

IHI is a Tanzanian Trust engaged in research-cum-action and training to address high quality public health relevant priorities. IHI has developed from the Swiss Tropical Institute Field Laboratory in 1949 to a Tanzanian Trust-based institution in 1996 with the Tanzanian and Swiss Government and Swiss TPH as founder members. All three founder members have provided core funding since then. In 2008, development partners (United Kingdom, Ireland, and Norway) joined to support six other centres across the country, each dedicated to a specific research area.

IHI is now a nationally and internationally recognized global health research institute with an annual budget exceeding 10 million US Dollars. The institute is best-known for its research, evaluating the impact of various malaria control strategies. The organisation hosts the most advanced malaria vector research group in Africa, providing new insights on vector ecology, developing and testing new control methods, and is providing surveillance on malaria transmission. On the clinical side, it has established one of the few African phase 1 trial sites. IHI's research portfolio includes malaria vaccine trials as well as studies to test the effectiveness of drugs and diagnostics for diseases of poverty and neglected tropical diseases.

Switzerland supports IHI to improve evidence-based policy making in Tanzania as well as to support evaluating the population impact of health policies. This will allow the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHCDGEC) and partners to better measure the impact of public spending in the health sector, and improve the use of evidence in policy making, for more effective health results.

## Overall Goal

Improve the health and wellbeing of all Tanzanians by creating scientific evidence for effective policy making and strategy implementation.

In recent years, IHI has improved health data collection, management, and use in Tanzania. Through institutional development in this phase, the institute aims to increase the quality, quantity, and relevance of its research, and produces high quality health data and knowledge products. IHI emphasises training and has developed a number of courses and mentored several Tanzanian scientists.

The institute has also developed new research themes, including maternal and neonatal health, HIV, Tuberculosis and other major challenges of public health importance. IHI aims to test interventions that are of highest priority, effective, affordable and feasible so that findings can be put into practice. IHI manages one of the most important HIV-treatment cohorts in sub-Saharan Africa.

## SUCCESS

*IHI has developed an impressive network with national and international partners, including Ministries, Universities, research institutions, bilateral and multilateral donors, private sector and NGOs. Thanks to the historical link with the Swiss Tropical Institute, Swiss and Tanzanian researchers will continue to benefit from the exchanges, training and cross fertilisation between these two institutions within the spirit of "mutual learning for change".*

As a trustee, SDC has an institutional responsibility towards IHI. During this new phase of support, SDC and partners will focus on institutional strengthening by engaging concrete actions and reforms in management - particularly also financial, operations and human resources.

## KEY EXPECTED RESULTS

- IHI's research and knowledge make key contribution in the advancement of public health in Tanzania and globally.
- Health policy making in Tanzania can rely on a strong and independent research institution.

## Beneficiaries

Population of Tanzania; local and international researchers and research institutions; national and international policy advisory bodies