



# EAST AFRICAN HEALTH RESEARCH COMMISSION (EAHRC)

an Institution of the East African Community  
(Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda)

Prof Gibson Kibiki, MD, MMed, PhD  
Executive Secretary – EAHRC

[gkibiki@eachq.org](mailto:gkibiki@eachq.org)

[www.eac.int](http://www.eac.int)

# BACKGROUND

- The member states of the East African Community (EAC) enjoy close;
  - historical, cultural, commercial, industrial ties
- Historical scores → establishment of EAC
  - 1947 – 1961
    - Cultural cooperation including health – facilitated by East Africa (High Commission) Orders in Council
  - 1961 – 1967
    - East African Common Services Organisation Agreements
  - 1967
    - Treaty of the East African Cooperation (EAC)
  - 1967 – 1977
    - East African Medical Research Council (EAMRC)
  - 1977 – 1999 – National Medical Research Institutes
  - 1999
    - Treaty for establishment of EAC
  - 2008

## • Establishment of EAHRC

- EAC = Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Kenya, and Burundi





**EAC HQ**  
**Arusha, Tanzania**



# ESTABLISHMENT OF EAHRC

- **PROTOCOL ON THE ESTABLISHMENT**

- By Heads of EAC States on 13<sup>th</sup> Sept 2008
- *As per provisions of the article 118 of the Treaty of the EAC*

- **OBJECTIVE OF THE PROTOCOL**

- EAHRC as a mechanism for making available to the community, advice upon all matters of health and health-related researches and findings necessary for
  - Knowledge generation
  - Technological development
  - Policy formulation
  - Practice
  - And for related matters
- In May 2015, the EAHRC secretariat officiated

# VISION & MISSION OF EAHRC

## VISION

High quality health research for improvement of the health and well-being of the people of the Community

## MISSION

**Coordinate and promote the conduct of health research, source, gather, and disseminate** the findings for the purpose of **policy formulations** and enhancement of the health of the people of the community and in order to fulfil its mandate as per Article 118 of the treaty of the EAC



# OBJECTIVES

1. Strengthen **collaboration and coordination** in research and **provide regulatory guidelines** and recognition for the conduct of health research thru standardization of research protocols and proposals, and clearance of joint research protocol and proposals in the region
2. Promote the application of knowledge from research to strengthen regional **health policy formulation and practice**
3. Promote and facilitate the development of **human resource capacities/skills** in health research, and **database** in all disciplines of health research
4. Promote the exchange of and **dissemination** of health research information thru **conferences, workshops, publications**, and other fora
5. **Audit research projects** under the auspices of the commission
6. Strengthen and enhance mechanisms for **collaboration in health research in the Partner States** and give general direction to the development and achievement of the Commission
7. Facilitate the **creation of the of health research databases** to strengthen health policy and practice
8. Play critical advocacy roles and **search for research grants and resources**
9. Promote **Community outreach activities** in implementation of the research findings

# OBJECTIVES

10. Play key **liaison role** with national, regional and international health institutions and other collaborating organizations
11. Address common **intellectual property rights** issues of relevance to health in the partner states
12. Facilitate **strategic planning** in health research institutions and others performing health research
13. Use **resources availed by the Partner States** to implement its core functions
14. Develop **quality assurance processes** in order to achieve and maintain international standards in health research in the region
15. Help member institutions identify and implement good practices in the conduct and **management of health research projects** and the use of resources
16. Assist governments and other appropriate bodies and authorities with the development of **strategies for adequate investment in health** research in the region
17. **Strive for excellence** in all its undertakings
18. Establish and maintain harmonised network of **morbidity and mortality registries** for all diseases, illnesses and conditions which may occur at **community, health facility, district, national, and regional levels** within the Partner States
19. Do all such **things as the Council may deem necessary** for the discharge of its functions and the realisation of its objectives

# FUNCTIONS OF EAHRC

- EAHRC:
  - is the principal advisory institution to the EAC on health and health R&D

The functions include:

**A. Development of network** health R&D institutions in EAC

**B. Promote collaborative** health R&D programmes incl.

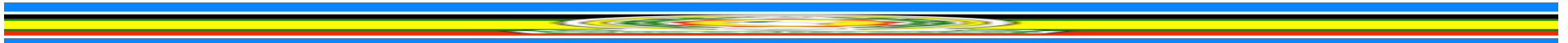
- i. Facilitation of the **development of CoE** in health research
- ii. **Creation and development of collaborative Research/capacity building programmes**
- iii. Establishment of **national and regional databases** on the health, research, capacity, research activities in the region





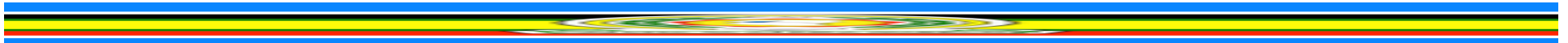
# FUNCTIONS OF EAHRC ii

- C. Assist in the establishment of quality assurance through
  - A. The facilitation, in partnership with **regulatory authorities** within the Partner States with respect to conduct of ethical health research
  - B. The development of, in partnership with the national regulatory authorities of the criteria for **assessing standards and assuring the quality of health research** in the region through advising on quality assurance mechanisms, ways of self evaluation and the comparability of the standards of health research
  - C. Assist the governments of the Partner States and health research institutions to identify the best ways of **developing and retaining qualified health research personnel**
- D. Facilitate the **development of regional health policies and their implementation**
- E. Establish expert technical working groups (**TWG**) for priority health research and policy areas
- F. **Do all other things** as the Council may deem necessary for the discharge of its functions and realizations of its objectives



# Research findings → decision makers

- For national or region decision making, the EAHRC presents its findings/recommendations through
  - The EAC **Council** of Ministers
    - Sectoral committee → Sectoral council →
- At national level, EAHRC works with
  - The National Focal Points
  - Health Research stakeholders from the EAC partner states



## Meeting between EAHRC and Senior Government health research experts from the five EAC partners states, September 2015



## Meeting between EAHRC and Rwandan National Health Research Stakeholders, September 2015



# EAHRC TO ANDI

## MISSION OF ANDI

To promote and sustain African-led health innovation to address the continent's needs through the assembly of collaborative networks, and building capacity to support public health and development.

ANDI focuses on addressing health needs by harnessing the untapped power of collaboration among African researchers as well as equitable N-S and S-S partnerships, with the vision of creating a sustainable platform for health innovation in Africa.

**Synergy between EAHRC and ANDI in the East African Region**



# EAHRC NEWS

- **Journal: print and electronic 2016 – 17**

## **The EAST AFRICAN HEALTH RESEARCH JOURNAL (EAHRJ)**

- **Scientific Conference: March 2017**

**PREPAREDNESS FOR AND CONTROL OF DISEASE OUTBREAKS,  
EPIDEMICS, AND PANDEMICS IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE  
CHANGE, GLOBALISATION, AND WEAK HEALTH SYSTEM**



# EBOLA

“As Ebola rages through west Africa, claiming lives, jumping continents and inciting fear, world leaders must take note and learn from the epidemic because this won't be the last to ravage lives and rattle governments”

**Bill Gates , ASTMH, New Orleans , 2014**

# Bubonic plague

In the 14th C: it remade the landscape of the world: ~ half of the global population perished. Human movement was a key factor

# Spanish flu

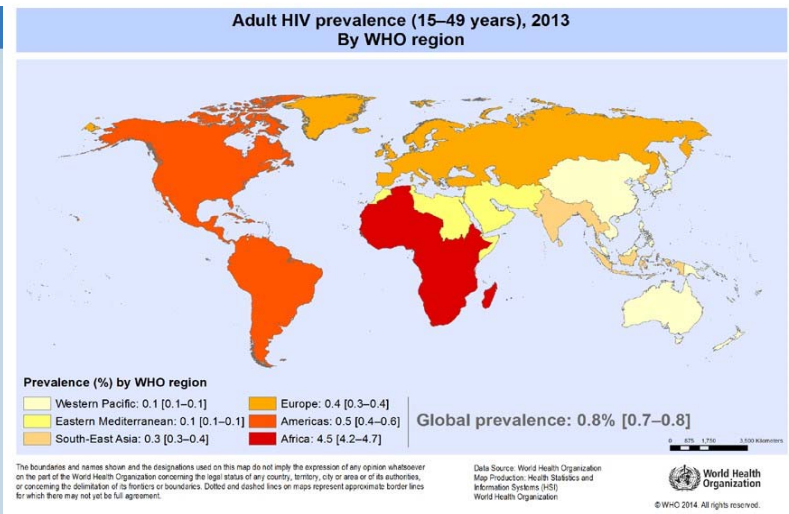
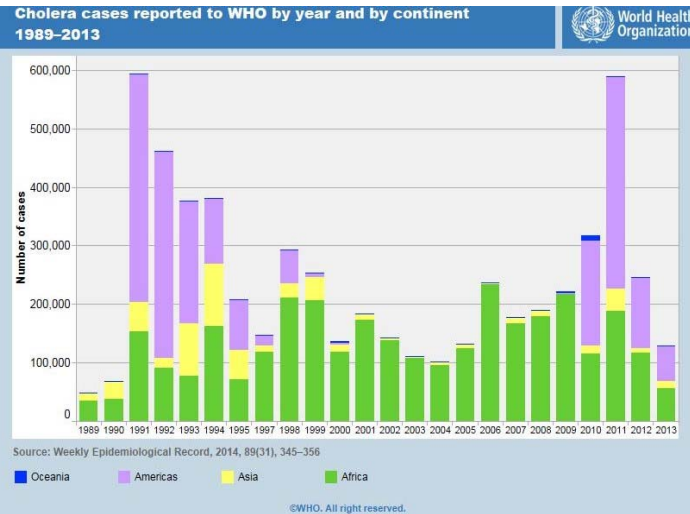
~ 100 ago it decimated the global population → mortality > 200,000 people; H1N1 epidemics is still present!

# Cholera

Since ~ 200 C ago, from the Ganges Delta to-date Cholera outbreaks are annual events around the globe

# HIV

HIV a pandemic we're still battling with,





Thank you

[gkibiki@eachq.org](mailto:gkibiki@eachq.org)

