

EAST AFRICAN HEALTH RESEARCH COMMISSION
AN INSTITUTION OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

BROCHURE

2021 – 2025



EAHRC HEADQUARTERS

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Background

The East African Community (EAC) is a regional intergovernmental organisation of six partner states; the Republic of Burundi, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Rwanda, Republic of South Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, and Republic of Uganda, with its headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

Cooperation in Health

The EAC with its ideal 'health is wealth', cooperates in health-related matters. The EAC established the East African Health Research Commission (EAHRC) in 2008 to revive and broaden the regional mandate of the former East African Medical Research Council (EAMRC).

Establishment of the EAHRC

The EAHRC was established by the Heads of State of the EAC Partner States, as stipulated by the Provisions of Article 118 of the Treaty of establishment of the East African Community.

The EAHRC is a mechanism for making available to the EAC, advice upon all matters of health and health - related research and findings that are necessary for; knowledge generation, technological development, policy formulation, and practice.

It is the principal advisory institution to the EAC on health Research and Development (R&D).

Vision of the EAHRC

The vision of the EAHRC is; a healthy and prosperous community built on evidence-driven health policy and practice, which emanate from high quality research.

Mission of the EAHRC

The Mission of the Commission is; to improve the health and well-being of citizens of the Community by generating, accessing, capturing, assessing, synthesizing, sharing, disseminating, and utilising health research and findings, as well as technological development that are suitable and relevant to the Community and its people.

Broad Objectives of the EAHRC

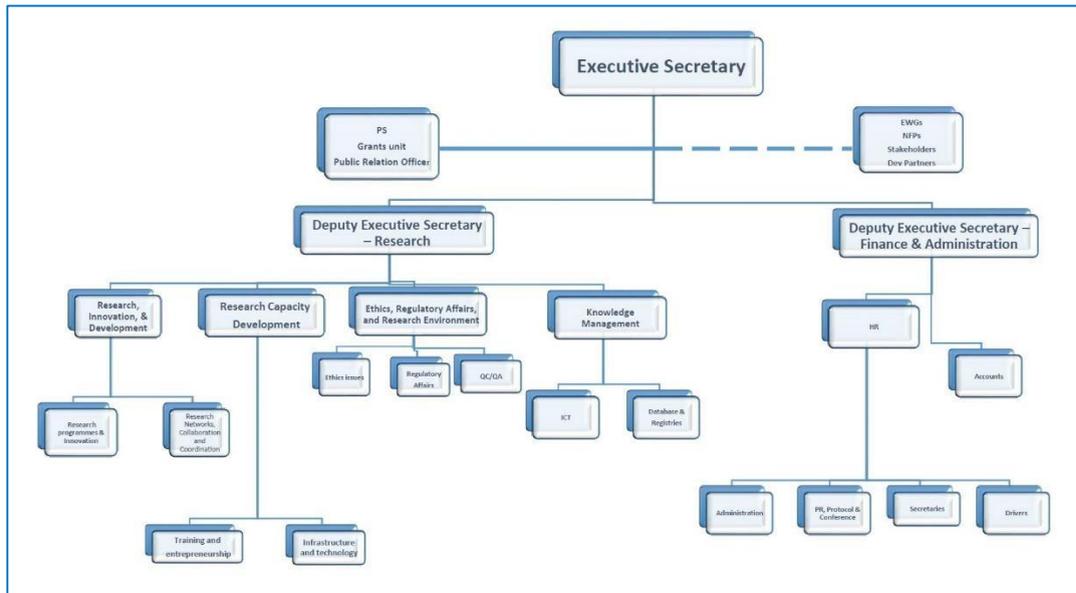
The EAHRC is implementing a five-year 2016 – 2021 Strategic Plan that has been developed in line with its mandate, objectives and functions. An interim review of the five-year strategic plan is scheduled after two and a half years, while a new strategic plan is developed for on a cycle of five years.

1. The objective of the Commission is to promote, facilitate, and coordinate the conduct and application of health research for improvement of health and for the wellbeing of the people of East Africa.
2. The specific objectives for which the Commission is established are to:-
 - a. Establish research programmes, networks, partnerships and centres of excellence in health research;

- b. Establish capacity development and capacity utilisation programmes;
- c. Create an environment that is conducive for research, including harmonised regional regulatory affairs and ethics review frameworks in the Partner States;
- d. Establish mechanisms for health research knowledge management;
- e. Mobilise resources to support health research for development.

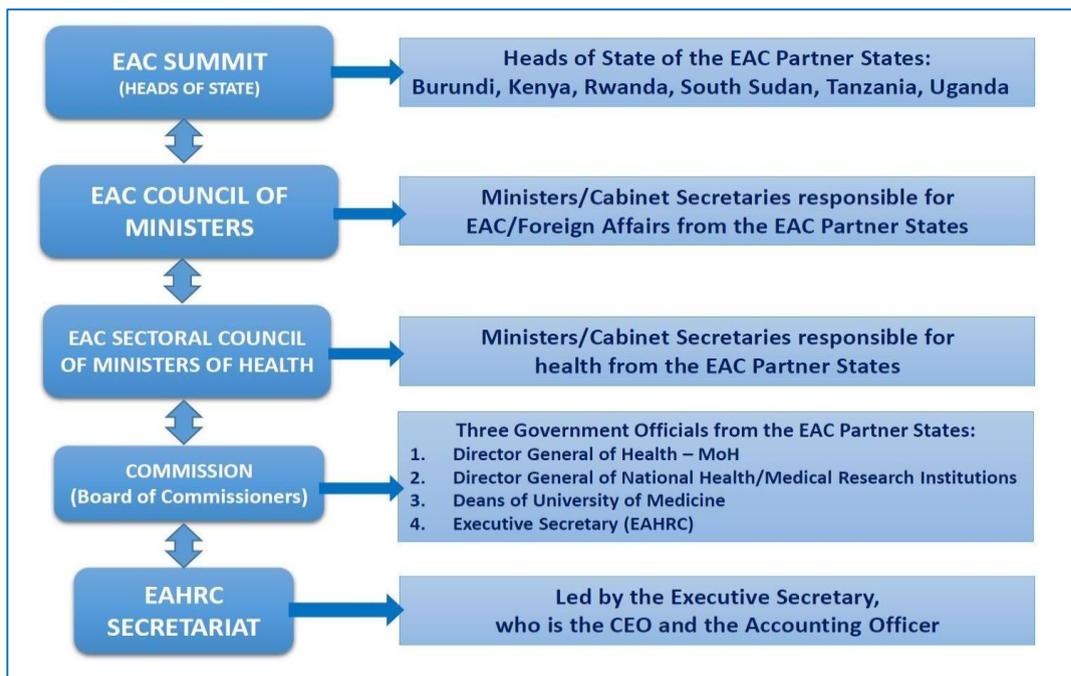
EAHRC Organisational Structure

The organisational structure of the EAHRC secretariat at the EAHRC Headquarters



EAHRC Reporting Structure

The EAC reporting and decision-making structure for EAHRC



National Focal Points

The National Focal Point (NFP) is a National Health/Medical Research Institution, which conducts, coordinates, and promotes health research in an EAC Partner State. The NFP is established by the government of the respective EAC Partner State for making available to the partner state, advice upon all matters of health and health related research for improvement of the health and wellbeing of its people.

National Focal Points

Are the linkages between EAHC and stakeholders at the EAC Partner States

The NFP is a linkage between EAHC and the national stakeholders of the EAC Partner States. The NFP is responsible for coordinating national stakeholders and supporting activities of the Commission at the Partner State's level.

The EAHC NFPs



EAHRC Strategic Regional Programmes

Between 2015 and 2017, EAHRC has initiated strategic regional programmes that are broad, multi-sectorial, and with long-term sustainable socioeconomic impact. Some of them are:

1. Digital REACH Initiative



The Digital Regional East African Community Health (Digital REACH) Initiative. Digital REACH Initiative is a novel, and ground-breaking initiative to transform the health service delivery and health outcomes in the region for millions of people, through scaled uptake and utilisation of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) across the entire health sector. The Digital REACH Initiative maximises the power of digital health in East Africa by ensuring an enabling environment for, and investment in digital health, and by implementing scaled, coordinated, transformational, and innovative approaches

2. YEARS' Forum

The Young East African Health Research Scientists' (YEARS') Forum is an initiative to empower the next generation research scientists and leaders in East Africa to be able



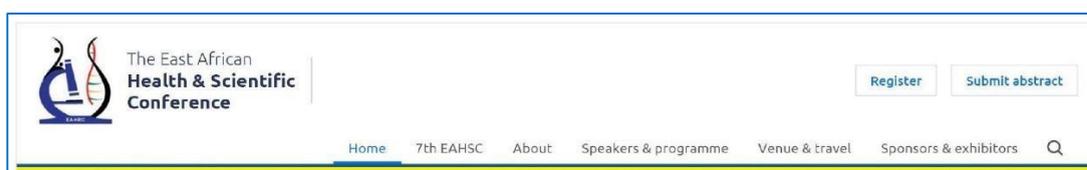
to shape the future of health, taking into account the new and unique features of this millennium that are going to influence significantly the socioeconomic development of our community.

3. EAGLES' Forum

The East African Government Leaders, Legislators, and Legal Executives' (EAGLES') Forum, is a platform that brings together regional Bureaucrats and Technocrats. The platform allows the EAC government leaders, members of parliament, officials from the judiciary system, health experts and the EAHRC to discuss health issues.

4. East African Health & Scientific Conference

The East African Health and Scientific conference (EAHSC) is an EAC biennial event convened in East Africa by the EAHRC in collaboration with a host EAC Partner State.



The EAHSC contributes towards strengthening regional cooperation in health, and enhances the EAC ideals of free movement of People, Services, and Goods.



Some of the parallel sessions during the 6th EAHSC, in Bujumbura, Burundi on 28th to 30th March 2017

5. Official East Africa Portal for Health

The web portal www.eahealth.org is the official comprehensive compendium of health information in East Africa.



It provides information on the regional health sector and of each of the Partner States.

6. EAHRC Journals

a. East African Health Research Journal

East African Health Research Journal (EAHRJ): *the Basis for Better Health Policy and Practice.*



EAHRJ contains peer-reviewed articles, original articles, reviews, book reviews, short communications, surveys, commentaries, opinions on policy or practice, essays, reports, etc., from East Africa.



b. East Africa Science

East Africa Science (EASci): *Search, Discover, Develop.* The journal publishes scientific research and innovation in health including clinical trials (on investigational medicinal products, devices, and diagnostics), application of health technologies and solutions, and other related matters.



7. REACH PMI Initiative

The Regional East African Community Health Policy Making and Implementation (REACH PMI) Initiative addresses the 'know-do gap' through a structured, and proactive approach to apply the available evidence, knowledge and best practices.

8. REACH RFA Initiative

Regional East African Community Health Research Funding and Accessing (REACH RFA) Initiative aims at identifying research priorities for health, mobilising resource, managing the resource and conducting a regular and thorough monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the resource, and outputs to the health and wellbeing of the citizens.

9. EAOSCH



The East Africa Open Science Cloud for Health (EAOSCH) is a regional, real-time central data warehouse for capturing, storing, retrieving, analysing, and managing national and regional health data. The warehouse will be a resource centre for evidence-driven health sector.

10. EAHRC Networks

EAHRC as per its mandate has established, or facilitated establishment of regional networks of research, academic, and other health - related organisations to address priority regional health agendas. The institutions have teamed up with international reputable academic institutions to allow for knowledge and technology transfer and sharing.

a. **TWENDE-CTN: East African TWENDE Clinical Trials Network**

The word *Twende* comes from the Eastern African *lingua franca*, *Swahili* that means "encouraging each other to move forward together". TWENDE's broad objective is to create a network of complementary Centers of Excellence (CoE) in the East African Community region, develop a critical mass of personnel, technology, and infrastructure to perform ICH-GCP standard clinical trials.

b. **HATUA: Holistic Approach To Unravel Antibacterial resistance in East Africa**

Hatua is a Swahili word synonymous to "take action". The consortium is established with a broad objective of providing a coordinated regional response to curtail the imminent impact of antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

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**The Official East African Comprehensive Compendium of
Health Information for All**