Role of the PANDORA-ID-Net Consortium in epidemiology, diagnostics and clinical management of emerging and re-emerging high consequence infectious diseases (HCID), in Africa

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1. Introduction

New and re-emerging infectious disease epidemics continue to cause great human suffering and loss of life around the world. It is in this context that the multidisciplinary PANDORA ID-NET “ONE HEALTH” consortium of 13 African countries and 9 European countries was created in response to a call from EDCTP (2016).

2. Material & Method

PANDORA-ID-Net implements its activities by zone and by transversal activities through four regional hubs for the development of rapid response teams, mobile laboratory services, laboratory capacities, capable of responding to epidemics of infectious diseases emerging and re-emerging, and to carry out inter and intra-epidemic actions.

3. Results

Expected impact of the proposed work: Global visibility and establishment of a pan-Saharan network essential to provide accelerated evidence for the optimal clinical management of patients and to guide the public health response to any serious infectious epidemic.

Medium-term impact: Improved capacity for detection and surveillance of threats of new or re-emerging infectious diseases originating in Africa or imported by personnel trained abroad in the field of emerging and re-emerging infections with epidemic potential and stream of 'One HEALTH'.

Long-term impact: the four regions of Africa are able to develop and conduct high-quality, locally-driven clinical trials of translational basic sciences and operational research in diagnostics, treatments, and preventive interventions in emerging countries and re-emerging infections with epidemic potential. Improved clinical trials and regional laboratory infrastructure will strengthen Africa’s capacity to conduct research on emerging infections.

Our “ONE HEALTH ONLY” approach will result in meaningful and confident cooperation and alignment of synergies between the animal and human health sectors in Africa.

4. Conclusion

Finally, Pandora-ID-Net aims to be a tool for improving the response capacity to emerging and re-emerging epidemics for public authorities and to support CDC Africa in its action in Africa; Reason why has carried out numerous activities, workshops (Ethics…), and interventions in the responses against the Lassa fever virus in Sierra Leone and the Chikungunya virus in the Republic of Congo and currently against the Covid-19
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pandemic in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Global Response and, has made more 222 publications (https://www.pandora-id.net/).