



Volume 1, Issue 1 | May 2023

NEWSLETTER

Program for Research on Vaccine Effectiveness (PROVE) in Africa

In this issue:

- About the Program
- Program Progress Matrix
- Spotlight: Saving Lives and Livelihoods Program Efforts Towards Research Data Harmonization in Africa using REDCap
- News and Updates



PROVE Protocol training at Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHeS), Malawi, March 2023



Nigeria PROVE team during a stakeholder engagement and site activation sessions at Bon Hotel, Bodija, Ibadan, Nigeria, April 2023

Dear Distinguished Readers,

I'm thrilled to welcome you to the Program for Research on Vaccine Effectiveness (PROVE) in Africa newsletter's first issue. We are excited to establish this newsletter to share our work with you as part of our program, which is committed to researching the real-world effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines in preventing disease and improving public health outcomes.

The past two years have shown how critical vaccine research and development is in the face of a global pandemic. Our program, currently running in 15 African countries, with invaluable support from the Africa Centres for Disease Control (Africa CDC) and the Mastercard Foundation, has been at the vanguard of initiatives to understand the efficacy of vaccinations against COVID-19 better. We are dedicated to continuing our work to ensure that vaccines remain essential in public health initiatives.

This newsletter will be a valuable resource for all interested in vaccine effectiveness. Through a combined effort, this newsletter will provide insights and analysis on the latest developments in vaccine research and updates on our research initiatives and partnerships.

We are excited about this new venture and look forward to engaging with you through this platform. We welcome your feedback, ideas, and suggestions, and we encourage you to share our newsletter with others who may find it valuable.

Francis Kakooza, PhD ©
Program Director

About the PROVE

In 2022, the Program for Research on Vaccine Effectiveness (PROVE) in Africa was established to carry out the implementation science pillar activities of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods (SLL) Program. SLL is a joint effort between the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and the Mastercard Foundation, to assess the real-world effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines in Africa.

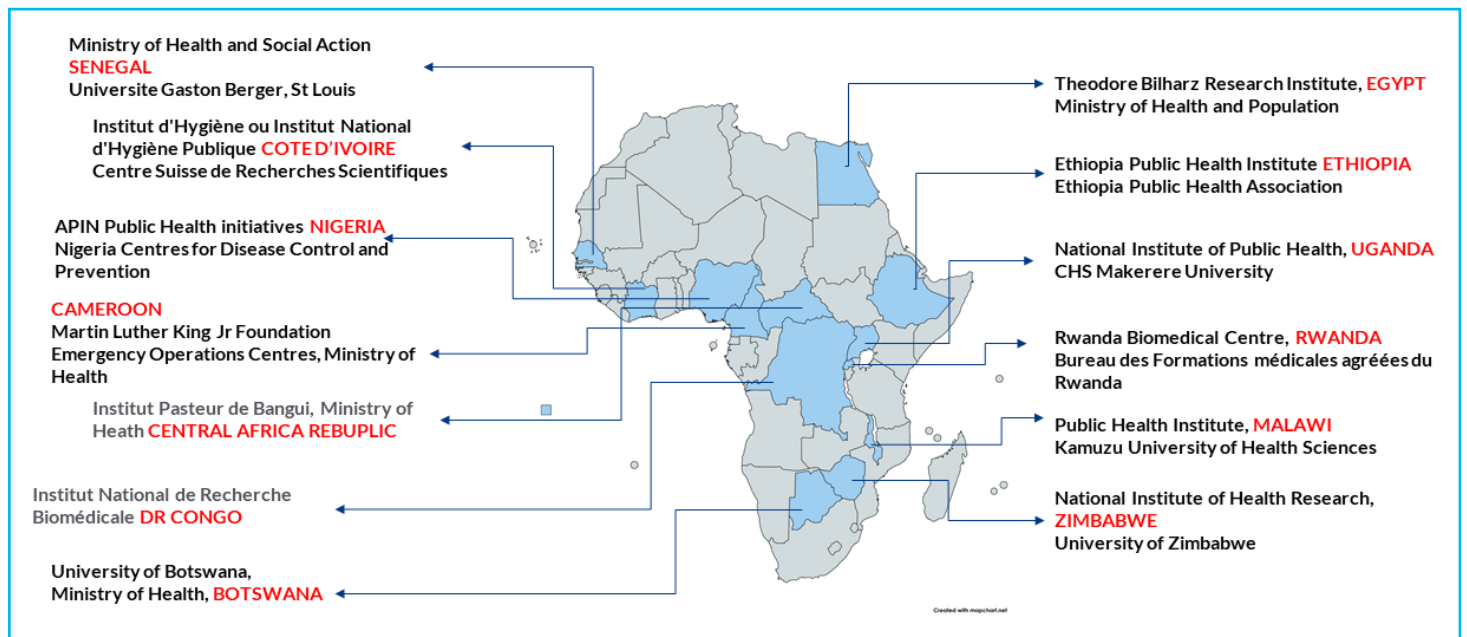
The PROVE program was to be implemented in 15 African nations by the Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI) in collaboration with the African Forum for Research and Education in Health (AFREHealth) and the National Public

Health Institutes (NPHIs) of the member states of the African Union (AU).

The program, which employs the NPHI-academic/local partnership model, also boasts a capacity-building effort in the different AU member states by enhancing data management and implementation science, utilising existing resources, and creating an environment of mutual collaboration and rapid translation of research into practice and policy.

The initiative is being implemented at various levels across 15 AU member states.

PROVE Presence in Africa



Program Progress Matrix

In June 2022, the PROVE program began its operations in 15 AU member states that had been chosen, having identified local partner institutions using the AFREHealth network.

Working with the respective National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs) or their equivalents, the PROVE Teams in the individual AU member states have played a crucial role in the advancement of the project implementation activities as presented by member states as of May 2023:

Activity	UGA	RWA	ETH	ZIM	MWI	BOT	NGA	SEN	CIV	DRC	CMR	CAR	EGY
Microplanning	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
Partner Contracting	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	In progress	Completed	Completed	Completed
Protocol Customization	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress
IRB review and approval	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	In progress	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
Data management systems	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
Research monitoring systems	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
Recruitment of staff	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	In progress	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
Protocol Training	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
Technical reports	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
Data Collection	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	Completed	In progress	Completed	In progress	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
Data analysis	In progress	Completed	Completed	Completed	In progress	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
Dissemination	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed

Completed In progress Not yet started

UGA-Uganda, RWA-Rwanda, ETH-Ethiopia, ZIM-Zimbabwe, MWI-Malawi, BOT-Botswana, NIG-Nigeria, SEN-Senegal, CIV-Côte d'Ivoire, DRC-Democratic Republic of Congo, CMR-Cameroon, CAR-Central African Republic, EGY-Egypt

Spotlight: Saving Lives and Livelihoods Program Efforts towards Research Data Harmonisation in Africa using REDCap

We are excited to share the success story of the PROVE Team's investment in REDCap, a comprehensive web and mobile database for collecting and managing research data from 15 AU member states.

Investment in efficient, flexible, and interoperable data management systems is critical for successful multi-country implementation research in Africa. The PROVE Team has demonstrated a unique approach to achieving this. By adopting a centralised data management strategy, the team hosted the REDCap server at Africa CDC, enabling all site teams to access the server for data entry and management.

This approach has already yielded a significant milestone by supporting Africa CDC in obtaining a REDCap license, increasing the entity's data management capabilities for this and future continental research programs. Positive feedback from early implementation demonstrates that the system is simple to learn and train on, with prior experience utilising the platform in countries such as Botswana, Nigeria, and Uganda proving beneficial.



"It is easy to flow with and to understand. I have learnt how to do the data dump and import it. I have also learnt how to set up devices on REDCap and create reports in REDCap"

- Charles Adewemimo, PROVE Data Manager Nigeria.

The data management team has reached another milestone with the platform's adoption for implementation in French-speaking sites. This will provide inclusivity in all research programs.

This investment is a step in the right direction towards building capacity in data management and ensuring the successful implementation of research programs in Africa. We applaud the PROVE Team's commitment to this project and look forward to seeing more successes in the future.



Grace Banturaki, PROVE IDI data manager, delivering a session on REDCap to data managers at the IDI McKinnel Training Centre, Makerere University, January 2022

News and Updates:

Site Activation and stakeholder engagements in Nigeria and Rwanda



The PROVE teams in Nigeria and Rwanda had site activation and stakeholder engagements beginning April 13 and April 24, 2023, respectively. In Nigeria, the PROVE Team hosted leaders from the Oyo State Ministry of Health, the Nigeria Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Nigeria CDC), the University of Ibadan, and AIDS Prevention Initiative in Nigeria (APIN) Public Health Initiatives for a program kick-off ceremony at the Bon Hotel in Bodija, Ibadan.

The Oyo State Ministry of Health (MoH) Team, led by permanent secretary Dr. Adeyanju Olusoji, praised the decision to conduct the study in Oyo state. Furthermore, because of the long-standing partnership between Nigeria CDC and the University of Ibadan, he voiced confidence in the study's Team.

The team from Nigeria CDC was led by Dr Chinwe Ochu, the Principal Investigator (PI) of the PROVE research, who promised her full support to the team. She stated that the concept of the NIPH-academia partnership is a framework that NCDC has previously employed, allowing the team to establish and function successfully.

The team also met other APIN Public Health Initiatives stakeholders and the SLL program country team.

In Rwanda, the site activation was hosted by Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC) in partnership with Le Bureau des Formations médicales agréées du Rwanda (BUFMAR) in Kigali, Rwanda. The team had stakeholder engagements with RBC leadership and the Director General of BUFMAR. The team then travelled to join the protocol training activities in Musanze district.



Rwanda PROVE team during a stakeholder engagement and site activation activity in Musanze district, Rwanda

Data collection begins in Uganda, Malawi, and Ethiopia.



Stakeholder engagement meeting between the IDI representative, Dr Rodgers Ayebare and officials from the Ethiopian Public Health Institute, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, April 2023

After completing the site activation efforts in the three countries, the respective country teams started data collection. Uganda started data collection on March 27, 2023, with Malawi and Ethiopia beginning on April 11, 2023. So far, the teams have recruited healthcare workers to participate in the study, providing data on the facilitators and barriers to COVID-19 among this population.

In addition, the teams are also conducting key informant interviews with Ministry of Health (MoH) officials to understand better the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health programs. Plans for data extraction from the District Health Information Systems 2 (DHIS 2) and phone interviews to obtain retrospective data to analyze the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines are in the works.

The IDI PROVE data manager, Grace Banturaki, has also supported the teams in preparing data query reports for resolution.



PROVE Protocol training at Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHeS), Malawi, March 2023

PROVE Program at the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Program Data Sharing Agreement in Kampala, Uganda



Some of the representatives from 14 African Union member states and representatives of SLL program partners in the Eastern Africa Region during the data-sharing validation meeting, Kampala, Uganda, April 2023

The PROVE Team was represented at the Africa CDC/Saving Lives and Livelihoods (SLL) Program Eastern Africa Regional Collaboration validation meeting for the Data Sharing Agreement at Protea Hotel by Marriot Kampala Skyz in Kampala, Uganda. The objectives of the 3-day workshop were to validate the data-sharing agreement, to increase awareness and understanding of the significance of the Data Sharing Agreement and to build national-level political and social will by communicating the role of the agreement. The need for data sharing is an important aspect of health security and crucial to achieving the New Public Health Order for Africa.

PROVE presented its data-sharing experience during the early phases of the program set-up during this meeting which was in concurrence with Africa CDC guidance.



Data Sharing is crucial to managing emerging and re-emerging diseases. The signing of this data sharing agreement will propel Africa to achieving resilient health systems necessary to attaining Africa's New Public Health Order.

**- Dr Lul Riek,
Ag. Coordinator, Africa CDC Eastern Africa
Regional Collaboration Centre.**

OUR CONTACTS:

Leah Mbabazi

Senior Project Officer
Lmbabazi@idi.co.ug

Rodgers Rodriguez Ayebare

Senior Programs Manager
rayebare@idi.co.ug

Francis Kakooza

Program Director
fkakooza@idi.co.ug

Dr Andrew Kambuğu

Executive Director, IDI
akambuğu@idi.co.ug

Infectious Diseases Institute
Makerere University,
School of Medicine, College of Health Sciences
PO Box 22418, Kampala, Uganda
Website: <https://idi.mak.ac.ug/>
Email: office@idi.co.ug



Investing In the Future, Impacting Real Lives

Follow Us on     