

Logistics support to research teams and activities

- Work facilities and field work support;
- Temporary housing arrangements for researchers.

Scientific and ethical framework

Research projects are assessed by CISA's Establishment Committee, by an external Scientific Committee and submitted for approval from the Ethics Committee of the Angolan Ministry of Health, whose members are independent from CISA's management bodies.

Promoters and partners

This project has the following patrons and is funded by the following entities: the Angolan State (through its Ministry of Health and the Provincial Government of Bengo), the Portuguese State [through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Portuguese Institute of Development Support (IPAD)], and Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian. The Portuguese Ministry of Health and the Medical School of Universidade Agostinho Neto (Angola) are the technical partners of this project.

CISA also has partnerships with other international research centres and institutions.

CISA's Establishment Committee is drawing up a proposal for the creation of CISA's legal form.



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Apoios:



CISA - HEALTH RESEARCH CENTRE IN ANGOLA

**Partnership between Angola and Portugal
in the Health area**

General information

What it is

The aim of Project CISA, which is being implemented since the end of 2007, is to create and establish a Research Centre in the Health area in Angola (CISA). CISA hopes to contribute to a better knowledge about diseases and health problems affecting developing countries, both the more visible, which are usually targeted by international investments (malaria, tuberculosis, AIDS), and those less targeted by the scientific community and networks supporting cooperation/ research in the area of Health, which are commonly referred to as “neglected diseases”, such as, for example, schistosomiasis, tripanosomiasis, hemorrhagic fevers, filariases, helminthiasis. In parallel, it is hoped that CISA can function as a catalyst for biomedical research involving Angolan and other international researchers, namely from Portugal.

Geographical and strategic positioning

Project CISA is located 60 km away from Luanda, in the town of Caxito, an urban centre in Dande Municipality, in the Province of Bengo. The territory has an estimated population of 250,000. To the North, it borders the provinces of Zaire and Uíge (separating it from the Democratic Republic of Congo) and its area surrounds Luanda, a city with an estimated population of 5 million inhabitants, nearly 40% of the total population of Angola. Dande Municipality, a rural area defined as the Project’s priority intervention area, has an estimated average population of 68,000 inhabitants. Knowledge about the region’s geography, about certain epidemiological characteristics and some of the road links that were being built in the area (link between the capital and the

provinces of Uíge and Zaire) are only a few of the reasons leading to the choice of this location for the establishment of CISA. It is also worth noting that there are no other similar projects in neighbouring countries.

A Research Centre that is within the community

Project CISA was designed as a project coordinated with existing health structures and resources, to enable the empowerment and strengthening of human resources. CISA’s facilities are located in a compound of health units that include a provincial hospital (with in-patients and ER), a health centre, a maternity ward, the provincial management structure (responsible for the management of national and ‘vertical’ health programmes), complemented by support services in the basic diagnosis and administrative areas.

Epidemiological and Demographic Research

Under CISA’s implementation effort, the following data collection platforms have been implemented:

- The Demographic Surveillance System, whose initial census was completed in April 2010. Periodic rounds have since taken place;
- Verbal Autopsy System, in operation since October 2010;
- Children Morbidity Surveillance System, being implemented since August 2010 at Hospital Geral do Bengo (HGB).

Of the research projects conducted, the following are worth highlighting:

- Epidemiology survey of malaria, schistosomiasis, intestinal parasitoses, anaemia and malnutrition on children and women of Dande Municipality; geographic modelling of such prevalence.

- Genotyping of *Plasmodium falciparum* parasites, namely as concerns the species and resistance to anti-malaria drugs;
- Hypertension survey;
- Ethno-botanical screening and mapping of medicinal plants used in Project CISA’s area.

Based on priorities set in the scientific agenda, scientific surveys are also being prepared on diarrheal causal agents, maternal and child health, as well as intervention on schistosomiasis, intestinal parasitoses and malaria.

How can the scientific community be part of CISA?

One of CISA’s objectives is to provide the following conditions and bases for research project development to researchers in the health area, both on an individual level and as part of institutional groups:

• Basic data on health information

CISA provides updated, reliable information for the calculation of indicators (population dynamics; mortality and morbidity rates; estimates of prevalence and incidence of the main diseases or health problems) to select samples representative of the population or specific population groups in the intervention area and to conduct epidemiological surveys. Application to INDEPTH (International Network for the continuous Demographic Evaluation of Populations and their Health), an international network, is currently under way.

• Support in diagnostics

- Simple laboratory support in the areas of bacteriology, parasitology, haematology and serology;
- Referral to laboratories of a different level, both in Angola and abroad.