

## National Health Research Priorities

The Ministry for Scientific Research and Innovation identified health research priorities for the Institut National de Recherche Médicale et d'étude des Plantes Médicinales (IMPM) during a Symposium on medical research organised in 2001. The other Ministries involved in health research and research institutes were part of the meeting but not sufficiently involved. The identified priorities were:

- HIV / AIDS
- Malaria
- Emerging diseases
- Traditional medicine
- Alimentation and nutrition

These priorities led to specific research programmes for the IMPM and have not been updated since 2001.

Regarding the Ministry of Public Health, several consultative meetings organized by the Division of Health Operations Research (DROS) since 2005 led to the identification of research priorities in the field of HIV/AIDS and mycobacterial diseases. In drafting the national programmes to control main diseases policy documents, health research priorities were identified. To date, no consolidated national health research agenda has been elaborated. The recent MOA between COHRED and MoH includes setting up mechanisms managing the national health research agenda.

Health research priority themes are included in priority programmes. In the past years health problems were built around priority programmes:

- National Programme against HIV / AIDS
- National Programme against malaria
- National Programme against schistosomiasis and helminthiasis
- National Programme against tuberculosis
- National Programme against onchocerciasis
- National Programme against lymphatic filariasis
- National Programme for the eradication of the Guinea worm
- National Programme against leprosy
- National Programme against human African trypanosomiasis
- National Programme against Cancer
- National Programme against Diabetes and Hypertension
- National Programme against blindness
- National Programme against drugs and toxicomania

### Research Priorities by Priority Programme

Public health problems	Research priorities
HIV / AIDS	<p>HIV / AIDS research constitutes the sixth strategic orientation of the National Plan against HIV / AIDS (2006 – 2010)<sup>1</sup>.</p> <p>The research priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prevention with a focus on methods on which women can have a control (i.e.: microbicides)</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> National AIDS Control Committee Central Technical Group, *National Strategic Plan against HIV / AIDS (2006 – 2010)*, Ministry of Public Health, 2006

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ HIV / AIDS vaccine research and especially research directed towards infected mothers' child Treatment</li> </ul> <p><b>The National Strategic Plan against HIV / AIDS (2006 – 2010) highlights that the HIV / AIDS research priorities have not been financed so far.</b></p>
Malaria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Resistance to drugs and insecticides</li> <li>▪ Drug efficacy</li> </ul>
Tuberculosis <sup>2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Epidemiological studies on the distribution and mapping</li> <li>▪ Drug Resistance</li> <li>▪ Studies to develop Information, Education and Communication (IEC) strategies</li> <li>▪ Studies to assess strategies for tuberculosis control</li> <li>▪ Studies to assess the social and economic impact of tuberculosis and to design advocacy strategy</li> </ul>
Cancer <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Incidence and prevalence</li> <li>▪ Prevention</li> <li>▪ Early case detection</li> <li>▪ Improving treatment</li> <li>▪ Improving palliative care</li> <li>▪ Organization of services</li> </ul>
Schistosomiasis and helminthiasis <sup>4</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of limitations and constraints in the implementation of the programme</li> <li>▪ Identification of factors in the implementation to the strategic plan (i.e.: alternative drugs / Traditional medicine)</li> </ul>

(Source: Ministry of Public Health, Cameroon)

The country is currently drafting a national health research agenda featuring national health research priorities. The recent Memorandum of Agreement COHRED includes setting and managing the national health research agenda.

<sup>2</sup> National Programme against Tuberculosis, *National Strategic Plan against Tuberculosis (2003 – 2007)*, Ministry of Public Health 2003

<sup>3</sup> Prof. Anderson S. DOH, *The National Cancer Prevention and Control Programme in Cameroon*;

<sup>4</sup> National Programme against Schistosomiasis and Helminthiasis, *Strategic Plan (2005 – 2010)*, 2005, Ministry of Public Health