



**Cross-African
collaboration against
current and emerging
health challenges**



Initiative to
Develop
African
Research
Leaders

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The IDeAL program is a multi-disease, multidisciplinary research and capacity-building initiative hosted by KEMRI-Wellcome. IDeAL was created to address the shortage of research training programs that develop credible African health researchers both locally and internationally. IDeAL is one of the 14 initiatives by the SFA Foundation under Developing Excellence in Leadership, Training, and Science in Africa (DELTA Africa) Phase 2. The first phase of IDeAL lasted from 2015 to 2020, and before that, the program operated as a Wellcome Strategy Award for capacity building.

IDeAL Phase 2 is funded until 2027 with USD 4.4 million from the Science for Africa Foundation, expanding its focus beyond East Africa through formal partnerships with the Centre for Infectious Diseases Research in Zambia (CIDRZ), Epicentre in Niger, the University of Glasgow, Oxford in the UK, as well as Strathmore and Pwani universities in Kenya. Collectively, these diverse partnerships provide access to high-quality research resources, joint supervision, mentorship, and learning opportunities. The Initiative is proud of this growth, viewing it as a collective effort to develop a critical mass of African research leaders who address Africa's unique health challenges.

IDeAL continues to offer highly competitive scholarships to support undergraduate and graduate internships, as well as Master's, PhD, and post-doctoral training. Our portfolio of research

capacity-building activities aims to develop a critical mass of African health research leaders. This mission is driven by the understanding that the interventions necessary to achieve universal health coverage in Africa, a vital factor in the continent's socio-economic growth, are best designed by well-trained African research scientists who possess a deep understanding of the region's unique challenges.

The unique feature of these programmes is the immersion of Fellows in a highly dynamic research environment at the KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme and partner institutions of IDeAL. This immersion ensures access to cutting-edge research infrastructure, supervision, and mentorship from internationally renowned researchers, along with enhanced training in technical and general skills. Additionally, these initiatives strongly focus on post-training support to increase the transition rate of Fellows into research and academic careers. This approach not only amplifies the voices of African researchers but also helps scientists conduct research that is relevant, impactful, and responsive to local needs.

IDeAL aims to enhance research development and capacity-building by focusing on 1) scientific quality, 2) research leadership, 3) research management, culture, and infrastructure, and 4) scientific citizenship, as outlined by the DELTA Africa Initiative of the SFA Foundation.

VISION, MISSION AND VALUES



VISION

**African-led research
solving African and
global health problems**



MISSION

**To create a critical mass
of African research
leaders**



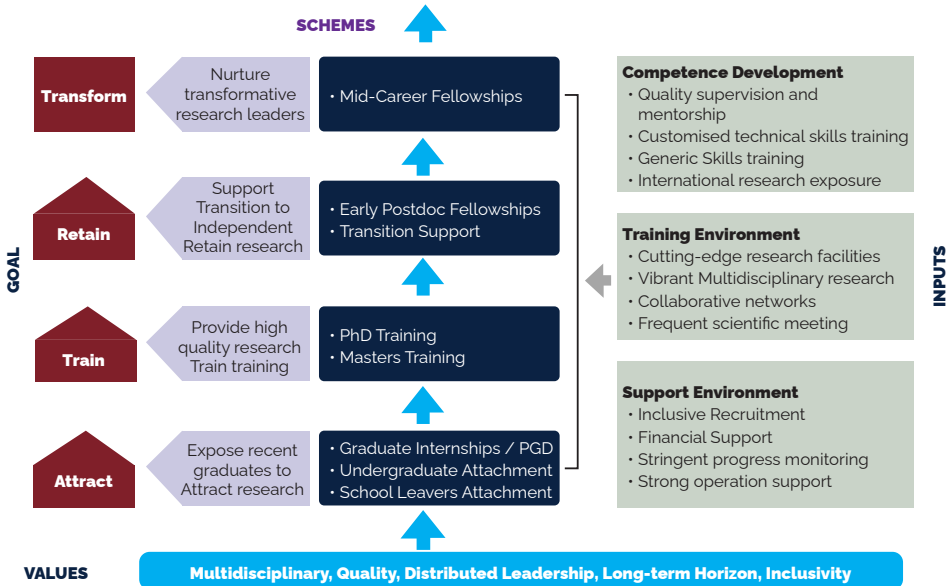
VALUES

- Long-term horizon
- Quality over quantity
- Inclusivity and equity



IDEAL IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

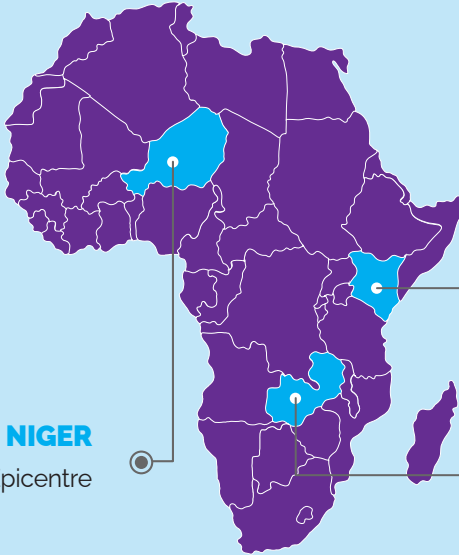
OUTCOME Highly-trained African researchers impacting on local and global knowledge, policy and practice



OUR FOOTPRINT

UNITED KINGDOM

- University of Glasgow
- Oxford University



NIGER

- Epicentre

KENYA

- KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme
- Pwani University
- Strathmore University

ZAMBIA

- Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ)

OUR PARTNERS

KEMRI | Wellcome Trust



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