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Annual report



"In the field, we are fortunate to be able to rely on a network of exceptional women and men who work tirelessly to be able to provide a better future for their people. We owe it to ourselves to remain at their side: their courage and determination command respect and give meaning to our commitment."

**Fondation
Mérieux**

Alain Mérieux
President of the Mérieux Foundation



Key figures 2024

58

years in the fight against infectious diseases

24M€

budget

17

laboratories of excellence built or under construction, and transferred to local partners, including 12 Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratories since 2004

5

advanced courses for public health experts

25

countries where we work

158

employees in 17 countries

100+

ongoing projects in development or support

70+

laboratories renovated since 2005

Contribution to the achievement of 3 Sustainable Development Goals :

3, 4 and 17

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The Mérieux Foundation

The world is undergoing profound changes, leading to crises, which multiply in all regions. Whether political, security-related, demographic, economic and climatic in nature, all crises contribute to worsening the health conditions of affected populations, creating an ideal breeding ground of development and spread for epidemics.

Low-income countries are the hardest-hit by these increasingly complex contexts, with mothers and children at the forefront.

This is why the Mérieux Foundation, **an independent foundation with public interest status**, has been fighting infectious diseases affecting vulnerable populations in resource-limited countries since its creation in 1967.

One mission, four main objectives

Encouraging

knowledge-sharing and public health initiatives working with Les Pensières Center for Global Health.

Increasing

vulnerable populations' access to diagnostics by strengthening clinical laboratories in national healthcare systems.

Improving

conditions for mothers and children taking a global health approach.

Enhancing

local applied research capabilities collaborative programs development.

An action based on four pillars

A collaborative dynamic

driven by international cooperation, to sharing experience and skills, with no boundaries between expertise or sectors.

An integrated approach to health

taking into account factors that have a direct impact on health, such as access to care, education and socio-economic support for patients, and nutrition.

A long-term vision

with sustained support leading to autonomy and local ownership of infrastructures, skills and programs.

Strong local roots

supported by national teams in the field and long-standing partnerships with local actors.



Fighting against infectious diseases since 1967

Operating directly in more than 25 countries, it is committed to strengthening local capacities, particularly in clinical biology, in order to improve access to care, surveillance and response to epidemics.

The foundation works side-by-side with local partners and builds networks to mobilize the skills and energies necessary to implement effective and sustainable actions, at the closest of the population's needs.

It is particularly involved in the public health issues that have the greatest impact in the countries where it operates, such as antimicrobial resistance, tuberculosis, acute respiratory infections, HIV, and emerging pathogens.

Committed to **an integrated approach to health**, the Mérieux Foundation goes beyond its expertise in biology to include the main and most impactful issues that influence the well-being of the populations in the countries where it operates.

An approach closely linked to the Sustainable Development Goals

The Mérieux Foundation works independently in the service of global health. By adopting a «One Health» approach, it contributes to achieving several of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Its cross-functional and international activities are focused on **SDG #3 «Good health and well-being»**, **SDG #4 «Quality education»**, **SDG #9 «Industry, innovation and infrastructure»**, and **SDG #17 «Partnerships for achieving the Goals»**. Within each of these goals, several targets directly concern the Foundation's action, such as target 3.3, which aims to end the tuberculosis epidemic worldwide by 2030.



One of the main pillars of the Mérieux Foundation lies in its capacity for direct intervention in the field, from the network of laboratories of excellence built at the source of outbreak-prone regions, to the presence of local teams in 16 countries. To carry out its mission, the Mérieux Foundation can rely on its expertise, its great experience in the field and its local partnerships built up over more than 15 years of international development.

The Mérieux Foundation teams

Benin
Team : 1 employee
→ Cotonou

Burkina Faso
Team : 1 employee
→ Ouagadougou

Cambodia
Team : 2 employees
→ Phnom Penh

China
Team : 3 employees
→ Beijing

France
Team : 74 employees
→ Headquarters, Lyon

Teams : 17 employees
→ Les Pensières Center for Global Health, Annecy

Guinea
Team : 4 employees
→ Conakry

Haiti
Team : 1 consultant

Laos
Team : 11 employees
→ Vientiane

Lebanon
Team : 6 employees
→ Beirut

Madagascar
Team : 9 employees
→ Antananarivo

Mali
Team : 2 employees
→ Bamako

Myanmar
Team : 6 employees
→ Mandalay

Niger
Team : 1 employee
→ Niamey

Democratic Republic of the Congo
Team : 2 employees
→ Kinshasa

Senegal
Team : 14 employees
→ Dakar

Togo
Team : 4 employees
→ Lomé

USA
Team : 1 employee
→ Mérieux Foundation USA, Washington

The Mérieux Foundation's partner laboratories

Bangladesh
Partner laboratory : Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory within BITID
→ Chittagong

Brazil
Partner laboratory : Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory within Fundhacre Hospital,
→ Rio Branco

Cambodia
Partner laboratory : Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory within the University of Health Science
→ Phnom Penh

Cameroon
Partner laboratory : Hygiene and Environment Laboratory at the Centre Pasteur du Cameroun,
→ Yaoundé

Chine
Partner laboratory : Christophe Mérieux Laboratory within the Institute of Pathogen,
→ Beijing

Haiti
Partner laboratory : Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory within GHESKIO Centers,
→ Port-au-Prince

Laos
Partner laboratory : Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory within the Center of Infectiology Lao Christophe Mérieux,
→ Vientiane

Lebanon
Partner laboratory : Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory within the Saint Joseph University,
→ Beirut

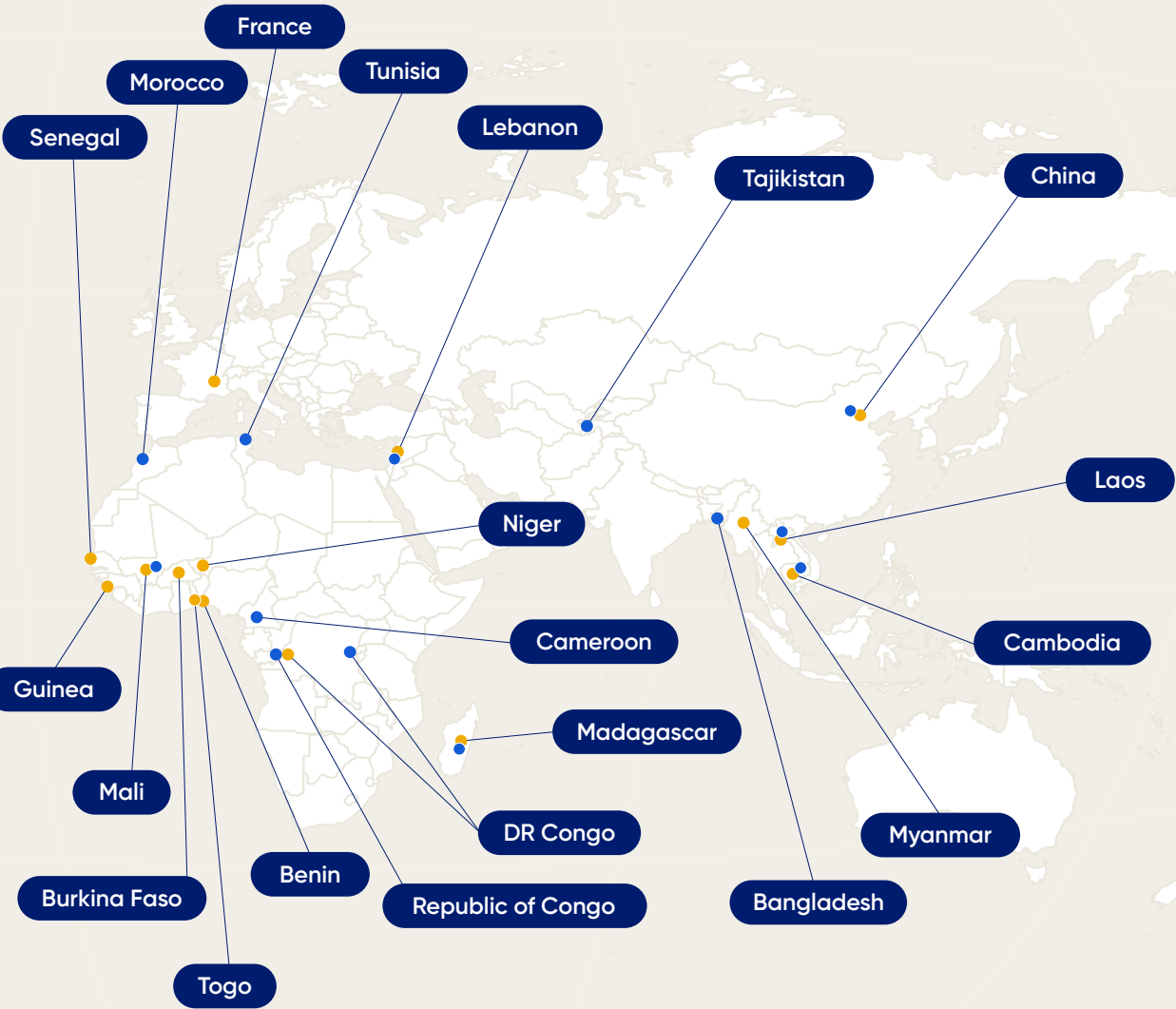
Madagascar
Partner laboratory : Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory within the Charles Mérieux Center for Infectious Disease,
→ Antananarivo

Mali
Partner laboratory : Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory within the Charles Mérieux Center for Infectious Disease,
→ Bamako

Morocco
Partner laboratory : Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory within the Institut Pasteur du Maroc*,
→ Casablanca

Democratic Republic of the Congo
Partner laboratory : Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory within INRB,
→ Goma

Republic of Congo
Partner laboratory : Christophe Mérieux Infectious Disease Research Center,
→ Brazzaville



The Mérieux Foundation
worldwide

*Projects under construction

edito

President's message

Our world is in turmoil, marked by conflict, violence, and uncertainty. The need for healthcare is greater than ever before, with the threat of infection remaining omnipresent and hitting the most fragile populations even harder.

In 2024, true to its public health mission, our Foundation stayed on course.

All the countries in which we operate are facing dramatic situations, some of which are desperate. Nevertheless, thanks to the links we have forged over many years with our partners in the field, we continue to work alongside them to help people and fight infectious diseases without borders.



Alain MÉRIEUX
President

In Haiti, a country left in the hands of gangs and forgotten by the international community, the situation has become untenable. We have maintained links for over 20 years with Sinior Raymond and ACME microfinance, with Professor Pape of the GHESKIO Center, and with Brother Armand and Sister Armelle in charge of the Léogâne children's home. They are holding the fort with admirable will and strength, and we are proud to have met them and to be able to support them.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the mobile laboratories sent to Goma at the end of 2019 proved to be strategic during various epidemics. Over the past five years, they have been used successively to diagnose Ebola, COVID-19, Monkey Pox, and Anthrax. The country is now at the center of conflicts with Rwanda and M23, a situation bringing more uncertainty.

In Mali, we remain one of the few French institutions to be well accepted by the government, and the Charles Mérieux Center for Infectious Disease in Bamako continues to operate despite difficult circumstances, providing access to diagnosis, which is essential for patient care.

In Madagascar, where child malnutrition is widespread and devastating, we continue to support Father Pedro's exemplary work with homeless children and to assist the Charles Mérieux Center for Infectious Disease with research work applied to local pathologies.

There is a glimmer of hope in Lebanon, where after months of political deadlock and chaos, the new government is trying to take the situation back in hand. We are due to open a second Mother & Child Center in the Beqaa Valley.

After opening a laboratory in Tunisia in 2021, another Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory is currently being built within the Institut Pasteur in Casablanca, Morocco, and will be inaugurated before the end of the year.

It is now more essential than ever to work together on a global scale with a long-term perspective, overcome political divides, and decompartmentalize disciplines. I am proud to see that the laboratories we have created over the past 20 years continue to work as a network to fulfill this vision, despite unprecedented geopolitical upheavals. We also develop partnerships with other institutions that share the same values and that we can rely on.

The global health challenges we face are immense, and are made particularly difficult by the increasingly inward-looking focus of large nations. We must ride the storm, with the hardest part yet to come. We are working tirelessly to ensure the sustainability of our actions and strengthen our structures.

In 2024, for example, I worked to bring together the Mérieux Foundation and the Fondation Christophe et Rodolphe Mérieux housed at the Institut de France. The merger of these two foundations, which were set up by the family and share the same purpose, has been effective since April 2025. Under the single banner of the Mérieux Foundation, they will strengthen the coherence and effectiveness of our actions in the long term. After six years as Director General of the Foundation, Jean-Pierre Bosser will step down in September 2025 and I commend the remarkable work he has achieved. He strengthened and structured our organization, enabling it to withstand our constantly changing environment. He will be replaced in October by Dorothee Lintner, who, having served at the head of Bioforce, will have to face complex challenges, pursue priority programs in the field of infectious diseases, and continue to deploy Mother & Child campaigns in the countries where we are present.

In the field, in countries where everyday life is extraordinarily difficult, we are fortunate to be able to rely on a network of exceptional women and men who work tirelessly to be able to provide a better future for their people. We owe it to ourselves to remain at their side. Their courage and determination command respect and give meaning to our commitment.

Unification of the Mérieux Foundation and the Christophe and Rodolphe Mérieux Foundation



Fondation
Mérieux



FONDATION
CHRISTOPHE & RODOLPHE MÉRIEUX
SOUS L'ÉGIDE DE L'INSTITUT DE FRANCE

« In a global environment where inequalities and healthcare needs have never been greater, I felt that reuniting the Mérieux Foundation, operational entity, and the Christophe and Rodolphe Mérieux Foundation, grant-making entity, under a single structure made perfect sense.

Bringing together these two foundations created by our family and sharing a common vision will strengthen the sustainability and coherence of our actions, enabling us to continue to fully assume our mission to help vulnerable populations. »

Alain MÉRIEUX

01

A strengthened endowment for a preserved operating model

The endowment of the Christophe and Rodolphe Mérieux Foundation was transferred free of charge to the Mérieux Foundation.

Capital of the Mérieux Alliance Company:

Christophe and Rodolphe Mérieux Foundation

Mérieux family



32%

March 25, 2025

32%

Mérieux Foundation

02

Independence and Public Interest foundation status maintained



+



Fondation
Mérieux

03

A merged identity for a combined action



Fondation
Mérieux



Director General's message

Our activities in 2024 were affected by a combination of two particularly worrying phenomena. Firstly, the resurgence of international conflicts and their renewed intensity increased the number of people in highly vulnerable situations. Secondly, there was a massive reduction in public funds available to meet these needs.

In this tense security and financial context, plunging the world of development aid into great uncertainty, the Mérieux Foundation upheld its commitment with determination, consolidating its international partnerships and maintaining an active presence in particularly dire situations.

Fighting antimicrobial resistance, strengthening access to diagnosis for all, improving epidemiological surveillance, training health practitioners in countries with limited resources, and improving maternal and child healthcare remained our priorities in 2024. To achieve our objectives, we know we can count on our network of partners fulfilling the day-to-day needs of those who need it most.

This is my last year as head of the Mérieux Foundation, after six years rich in challenges, developments, and collaboration. The guiding principle behind my work has been to structure the Mérieux Foundation and enhance its performance in the field to help vulnerable populations; to act safely in a changing and unstable context, while maintaining the Foundation's agility, which will remain essential in the complexity of tomorrow's world. I would like to thank all the teams at the Mérieux Foundation, in the various countries and at head office, for their professionalism, their commitment, and their ability to innovate in particularly demanding and changing environments.

I have every confidence in the capacity of this wonderful institution, which places people, international solidarity, and excellence at the heart of its action, to continue working as closely as possible with local populations. I am more convinced than ever of the need for the expertise developed by the Mérieux Foundation in the field over the past 60 years and of the importance of our mission to strengthen local capacities to improve the health of the most vulnerable people.

I wish all the best to Dorothée Lintner, who is taking over the reins, as well as to all the employees and partners of the Mérieux Foundation.



Jean-Pierre BOSSER
Director General



2024 milestones



Madagascar

The IDDS project in Madagascar draws to a close: a look at the highlights and prospects.
[See p. 25](#)

Angola

The Mérieux Foundation takes part in the REDISSE IV regional project's technical meeting in Angola.
[See p. 22](#)

Laos

BoliLab grant: the Mérieux Foundation supports leadership training for future laboratory managers in Laos.
[See p. 31](#)



International

ACDx, a week of synergies devoted entirely to diagnostics.

The 13th Advanced Course on Diagnostics (ACDx) was held at Les Pensières Conference Center in Veyrier-du-Lac (France), in September. It was organized by the Mérieux Foundation and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.
[See p. 53](#)



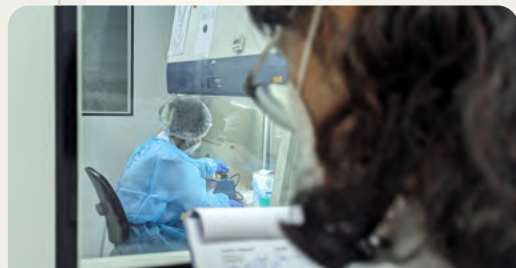
Senegal

French-speaking African diagnostics players gather for the fourth edition of the Afro-ACDx course.
[See p. 54](#)

France

Fruitful exchanges at the 13th International GABRIEL meeting.
[See p. 36](#)

January February March April May June July August September October November December



Cambodia

The Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory at the University of Health Sciences in Cambodia gains ISO 9001:2015 certification.

Supported by the Mérieux Foundation's Quality Initiative, the laboratory has been certified according to the ISO 9001:2015.



International

24th Advanced Course in Vaccinology

Organized jointly by the Mérieux Foundation and the University of Geneva, this edition was held at Les Pensières Center for Global Health from May 6 through 17, 2024, training 75 new participants in the complex challenges of vaccinology.
[See p. 55](#)

Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, a study to improve diagnosis of childhood pneumonia is launched.
[See p. 40](#)



International

The Mérieux Foundation and Epiconcept organize the second edition of Epi-Course.
[See p. 57](#)

Cambodia and Laos

Launching Phase 2 of the QWArS Program.
[See p. 30](#)



Madagascar

Madagascar: towards the elimination of leprosy with the National Strategic Plan 2025-2030.

The Mérieux Foundation took part in a major workshop to develop Madagascar's National Strategic Plan to Combat Leprosy and Neglected Tropical Skin Diseases.

International

Accelerating the fight against AMR: a conference organized jointly with the WHO to emphasize the urgency of the situation.
[See p. 59](#)





— 2024 Focus

Our main priorities are to make progress in the fight against **tuberculosis, respiratory infections, and antimicrobial resistance**

The Foundation's teams continue to pursue their efforts to address the unmet needs of the most vulnerable populations in our main areas of intervention: improving diagnostics and surveillance, contributing to the development of adapted screening tools, and taking local issues into account so that we can act effectively.

This commitment involves all areas of the Foundation, targeting the strengthening of diagnostics, field research, and the dissemination of knowledge. It also relies on our partnerships and connections with the local ecosystem, research institutes, companies, and relevant international organizations.



Tuberculosis

By joining the international **Stop TB Partnership** network at the end of 2023, the Mérieux Foundation reaffirmed its commitment to contribute to "Ending the TB epidemic by 2030", a target that is included in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals related to health.

In 2024, several TB control projects in Africa and Asia helped to facilitate the diagnosis and surveillance of the disease and promote scientific innovation for the benefit of as many people as possible. Through operational research projects that evaluate rapid screening tests in real-life conditions, we contribute to facilitating access to new diagnostic methods that meet the socio-economic realities of low- and middle-income countries. **The APRECIT project**, for example, which was concluded in 2024, focused on assessing the cost-effectiveness of several TB infection screening and management strategies in Madagascar and Cameroon. Using a similar community-based model, the **Risk4Kids project**, launched in 2024, is evaluating three non-invasive rapid screening solutions to facilitate the diagnosis of pediatric TB in Bangladesh.

At the same time, the Foundation supports **national TB control programs** in their implementation of the WHO's recommendations. In 2024, we contributed to the publication of a WHO strategic report on the elimination of tuberculosis among refugees and migrants, a document based on the Foundation's activities in Lebanon. Several texts published in The Union journal also highlighted the Foundation's projects in 2024.

TARGETING ALL FORMS OF THE DISEASE

In line with the WHO's recommendations, the Foundation's work focuses on improving the management of the disease in all its forms: tuberculosis disease and tuberculosis infection (latent tuberculosis, which is a reservoir for active tuberculosis), as well as pediatric and extra-pulmonary forms of the disease, the diagnosis of which is particularly complex.



Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

The Mérieux Foundation takes an integrated approach to tackling AMR, covering the strengthening of microbiological capacities and surveillance systems, the definition of action plans in support of health authorities, as well as the training of clinicians in good antibiotic practices. Every year since 2020, the Foundation has organized an advanced course on the fight against AMR in partnership with Paris Cité University in order to provide the keys to understanding and preventing AMR. Projects are deployed according to **the One Health approach**, based on the interdependence of human, veterinary, and environmental issues.

MÉRIEUX FOUNDATION SELECTED BY THE FLEMING FUND

In Laos and Senegal: to oversee phase 2 of the Country Grants and the Fellowship Scheme (mentoring for human and animal health practitioners and decision-makers);

In Africa: to lead the consortium formed with the British Universities of Oxford and City St George, in charge of piloting the Regional Grant Africa in 11 countries (in addition to national approaches for regional scaling and data collection).

In 2024, the Foundation consolidated its expert role by renewing or developing several flagship projects supported by key partners, such as the Fleming Fund (British aid program) and the AFD (French Development Agency). These initiatives, deployed in Laos, Senegal, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, focused on strengthening diagnostic capacities and contributing to the establishment of robust surveillance systems.

Key milestones were also reached during the year, such as the publication of the results of the AMR surveillance study conducted in Madagascar as part of the **WHO Tricycle protocol** (in The Lancet Microbe), the launch of the second phase of the QWArS project in Cambodia to strengthen the skills of human and animal health practitioners, and the establishment of **an AMR data center** in Madagascar and Burkina Faso, with a view to defining relevant strategic indicators to monitor the impact of public health measures.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AMR

On December 17, 2024, the Mérieux Foundation together with the WHO jointly organized a conference to review the objectives set by the heads of state at the last United Nations Assembly on the fight against AMR. Experts from the WHO, the Global Fund, the One Health Trust, the University of Lorraine, the Fleming Initiative, and the GARDP (Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership) gathered in Lyon as part of the Global Health Festival.

Acute Respiratory Infections

Acute respiratory infections, which are a public health emergency in countries with limited resources, are the subject of several projects aimed at better understanding the etiology of infections and developing prevention strategies. Our activities help to enhance patient care for populations at risk, coordinate research on the transmission of infections, and evaluate the impact of vaccination in order to make informed decisions in national health policies.

In 2024, our Acute Respiratory Infections program included the launch of a new project in Bangladesh for the national management of pediatric pneumonia. With the aim of improving primary diagnosis, as well as case management in children under five, **the Pneumo-DX study** started in the Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, where rudimentary living conditions accelerate the spread of infectious diseases, especially respiratory viruses.

2024 also saw the publication of the results of **the international NOSO-COR study** on the risks of nosocomial transmission of COVID-19 in the American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. The findings of **the assessment of the impact of preventive measures to avoid the spread of COVID-19** during the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations in Cameroon were also published in the Journal of Public Health in the United Kingdom.





01

Access to biological diagnosis

By strengthening laboratory structures and supporting health authorities in the construction of efficient laboratory systems, the Mérieux Foundation helps to improve the care of the most fragile populations and optimize health surveillance, including resistance to antibiotics.

In 2024, the Mérieux Foundation's expertise in reinforcing clinical biology laboratories was deployed across more than 40 projects in more than 20 countries

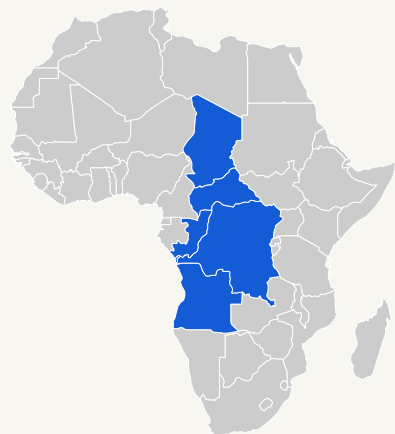
Virology expertise
Bacteriology expertise
Educational engineering expertise
Infrastructure expertise
Quality management system expertise
Biosafety and biosecurity expertise
Laboratory IT systems expertise
Expertise in health surveillance based on laboratories
Expertise in laboratory development policies

The Mérieux Foundation supports the establishment of high-level biomedical laboratories through collaborations with national and international private and public organizations. In an increasingly complex world in which conflicts, epidemics, and population displacements are becoming more commonplace, the Foundation has established a reputation for its expertise in biology and infectious diseases. It makes an active contribution to tackling infectious diseases and is one of the organizations approved by the Global Fund as a technical laboratory expert.

This expertise is based on four main cornerstones:

- Modernization of infrastructure and equipment;
- Strengthening the skills and expertise of laboratory staff;
- Sustainability of structures;
- Establishment of networks and laboratory systems.

2024 was marked by significant challenges in terms of security and the geopolitical situation in several of the areas in which the Foundation operates, in particular in Lebanon, Haiti, and Bangladesh. In West Africa, the diplomatic context is making it difficult to continue or launch projects. In this changing environment, our beneficiaries and partners can count on the commitment, flexibility, and adaptability of our teams and our network of institutional partners.



Central Africa **SDG 3**

REDISSE IV

Improving surveillance based on laboratory data

To help five countries strengthen their health systems (Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, Congo, and Central African Republic), the Economic Community of Central African States received support from the World Bank as part of the 4th phase of the REDISSE project (a regional project to strengthen disease surveillance systems).

Concluded in December 2024, REDISSE IV was based on an integrated "One Health" approach targeting human, animal, and environmental health. Thanks to its experience, the Mérieux Foundation was selected to contribute its expertise, in particular by mobilizing key players involved in RESAOLAB, the West African Network of Medical Biology Laboratories.

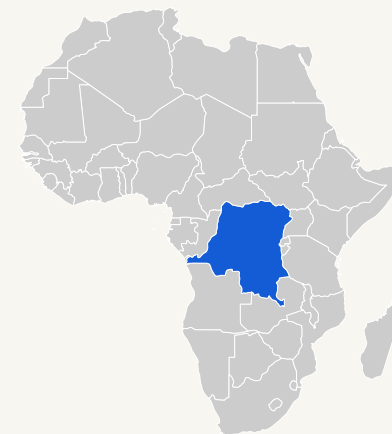
The Mérieux Foundation was in charge of technical support aimed at strengthening the quality of biological diagnosis, defining national medical biology strategies, and improving regional cooperation. Following a review of the local and regional context (identification of key players and evaluation of laboratory systems), the Mérieux Foundation team participated in defining improvement initiatives adapted to each country on the three major themes for strengthening laboratories: data management, quality, and training.

REDISSE IV relied on the active contribution of national players, including primarily the health ministries of the beneficiary countries, in order to guarantee the sustainability of the project and pave the way for harmonized and coordinated intervention policies at a regional level.



Deliverables produced by the Foundation under REDISSE IV

- Mapping of the active players in the laboratory system (human, veterinary, and environmental health) and assessment report of national laboratory networks;
- Road map for laboratory development;
- Framework document for the harmonization of assessment tools and quality standards;
- Report on the harmonization of data collection tools and the training of trainers.



Democratic Republic of the Congo **SDG 3 & 5**

INRB

Supporting the scientific excellence of the national biomedical research institute

Resulting from bilateral collaboration between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and France, the support program for the National Biomedical Research Institute (INRB) in Kinshasa is funded by the Agence française de développement (AFD, French Development Agency), which has appointed the Mérieux Foundation to manage the project. One of the key challenges addressed by the project is reducing gender inequalities in access to health services by taking gender more into consideration in the INRB's organizational practices, governance, and activities.

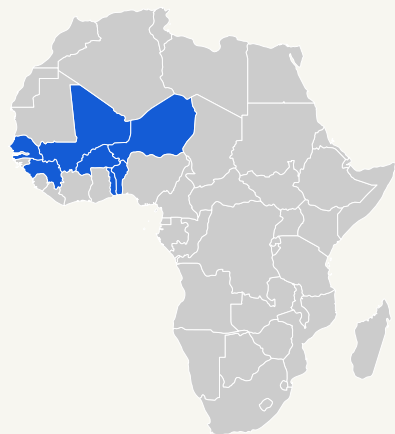
Planned over three years and carried out in conjunction with the Ministry of Public Health, Hygiene, and Social Prevention, the project will contribute to strengthening the INRB in its role as a National Public Health Laboratory (in particular in the fields of bacteriology and parasitology), to revitalizing its role of providing technical support to hospitals (in the field of antimicrobial resistance and malaria), and to improving the training of biologists. The construction of an administrative building is also part of the project. Activities began in 2024, including the launch of a study on the use of the innovative MalarIA software solution to reinforce the remote monitoring of malaria diagnosis.



"The INRB support project reflects an ambition shared by all the partners: to build a resilient, inclusive health system that meets the needs of the Congolese population. It is based on collaboration, the pooling of our expertise, and a firm commitment to equity and excellence."

Marie Engel, International and Laboratories Director at the Mérieux Foundation





West Africa **SDG 3**

RESAOLAB 3

Improving the quality of medical biology services

RESAOLAB (West African Network of Medical Biology Laboratories) is the first regional initiative to take into account all the factors that affect the governance and performance of laboratories (technical capacities, continuous training, external quality assessment, networking, etc.). Set up in 2009 on the initiative of the Mérieux Foundation, RESAOLAB is managed in collaboration with the Ministries of Health in seven West African beneficiary countries: Benin, Burkina Faso*, Guinea, Mali*, Niger*, Senegal, and Togo.

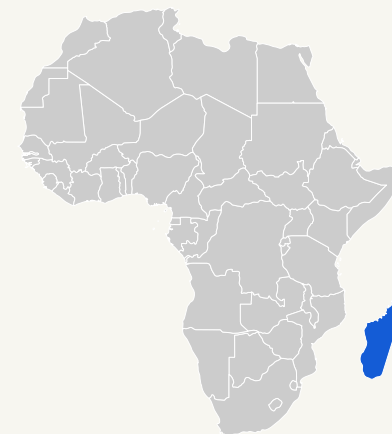
The third phase of the program, launched in 2019 with the support of the Agence Française de Développement (AFD, French Development Agency), continues to strengthen the capacities of medical biology laboratories in order to meet the needs of the population and contribute to global epidemiological surveillance tools. In 2024, the findings of the study on "The Importance of Governance for Strengthening Laboratory Systems in West Africa" were published and presented at the international steering committee meeting held in Conakry, Guinea.

**Due to the changing geopolitical context in the sub-region, the financing of activities by AFD funding was stopped in Mali in November 2022, and in Niger and Burkina Faso in January 2024.*



RESAOLAB and the Mérieux Foundation take part in the 3rd edition of the Togo Medical Biology Days

Organized on March 6 and 7, 2024, in Lomé, by the Togo Clinical Biology Society, with the support of the Mérieux Foundation and funding from the AFD through the RESAOLAB project, the Togo Medical Biology Days addressed the theme of quality management, in the presence of 160 teaching and research staff, practitioners, laboratory technicians, veterinarians, and pharmacists. Gilles Adjane Koura, the Mérieux Foundation's Deputy Technical Advisor for West Africa, presented the work of the RESAOLAB network during the opening session.



Madagascar **SDG 3**

IDDS

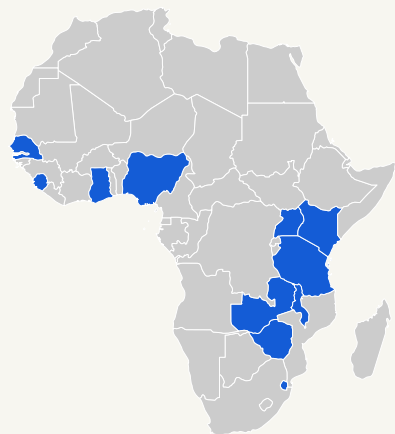
Organizing the detection and surveillance of infectious diseases

Conducted in more than 20 countries in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia with the goal of reducing global health risks linked to infectious diseases, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Infectious Disease Detection and Surveillance (IDDS) project ended in 2024. The Mérieux Foundation, via the Mérieux Foundation USA, participated in the project as an implementing partner in Madagascar, within a consortium led by the company ICF.

On January 31, 2024, the closing ceremony for the IDDS project took place in Antananarivo, marking a significant milestone in the fight against infectious diseases in Madagascar. Activities were carried out in collaboration with biologists and technicians of the RESAMAD network, created at the initiative of the Mérieux Foundation.

The project also benefited from the support of several departments of the Madagascar Ministry of Public Health, in particular the Laboratory Development Department. Over five years, IDDS made it possible to develop bacteriology capacities in Madagascar and to raise the level of quality compliance of laboratory structures in accordance with the ISO 15189 standard. As part of the project's development in the DRC, the Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory at the National Institute of Biomedical Research (INRB) in Goma played a key role as the reference laboratory for the eastern part of the country.





Africa **SDG 3 & 4**

FLEMING FUND REGIONAL GRANT

Strengthening the capacities of clinical biology to combat AMR

The Mérieux Foundation was selected by the Fleming Fund to lead the consortium responsible for coordinating the regional clinical engagement project to tackle antimicrobial resistance launched in February 2024 and covering eleven African countries. The consortium consists of the Mérieux Foundation and the British Universities of Oxford and City St George.

Program objective: to enhance patient care through skills development and improved interactions within the healthcare teams of health institutions (clinicians, nurses, laboratory staff, specialists in infectious diseases, etc.).

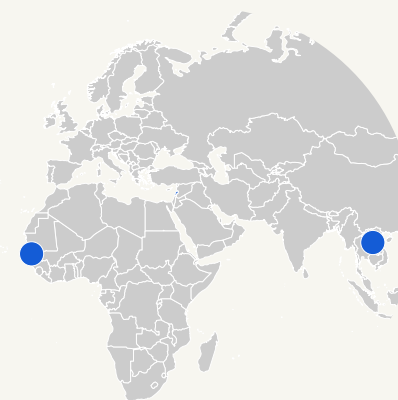
The project also aims to collect and analyze laboratory data to guide healthcare recommendations and infection prevention and control measures. By conducting surveys on antibiotic prescribing practices, the project will further guide the implementation of Antimicrobial Stewardship technical committees, i.e. promoting the prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials.



The Fleming Fund and the Mérieux Foundation

- The Fleming Fund is a British aid program that supports more than 25 countries in Africa and Asia in the fight against antimicrobial resistance;
- The Fleming Fund invests in strengthening surveillance systems through national grants, regional grants, and scholarships managed by Mott MacDonald;
- The Mérieux Foundation was selected for the implementation of the national scholarship and grant programs in Laos and Senegal, and for the regional grant for Africa.

This project is funded by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) Fleming Fund programme through UK aid and managed by Mott MacDonald.



Laos | Senegal **SDG 3 & 4**

FLEMING FUND COUNTRY GRANTS

Strengthening the surveillance of antimicrobial resistance



A study of antibiotic prescribing practices in Laos

Carried out as part of phase I of the Fleming Fund project, the study conducted at Luang Prabang Provincial Hospital on the use of antibiotics was published in the scientific journal BMC Infectious Diseases. The results show the widespread use of antibiotics – especially broad-spectrum antibiotics – with low adherence to hospital guidelines, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive strategies to optimize antibiotic use.

The Fleming Fund's national grant program aims to improve the capacity of beneficiary countries to diagnose antimicrobial-resistant bacteria, generate data, and shed light on policies and practices at national and international level. The Mérieux Foundation was selected as the program leader in Laos and Senegal. Deployed in collaboration with Ministries of Health, these activities integrate the One Health dimension and encourage knowledge sharing on AMR and the reasonable use of antibiotics.

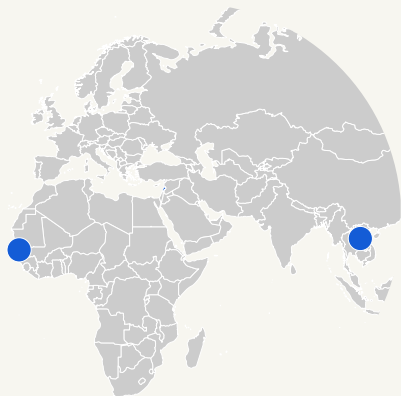
In Senegal, the project was launched at the end of 2024 with the organization of coordination meetings, the assessment of the needs of sentinel sites, and the political and economic analysis of AMR.

In Laos, where the project was initiated in 2020, phase 2 was launched in 2024 to focus on the production, analysis, and sharing of quality data in human health. It is being deployed in collaboration with the LOMWRU (Lao Oxford Mahosot Hospital Wellcome Trust Research Unit). The progress made in 2024 includes improving laboratory maintenance and inventory management, implementing training, and raising clinicians' awareness of the importance of taking samples before prescribing antibiotics.



This project is funded by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) Fleming Fund programme through UK aid and managed by Mott MacDonald.





Laos | Senegal **SDG 3 & 4**

FLEMING FUND FELLOWSHIP SCHEME phase 2

Supporting national governance with regards to tackling AMR

Designed to support skills development among practitioners and decision-makers involved in AMR surveillance in the disciplines of human, animal, and environmental health, the Fleming Fund's Fellowship Scheme encourages peer-to-peer learning and the creation of One Health communities of practitioners. Fellows are primarily selected from governmental public institutions to reinforce national capacities for responding to AMR. The Mérieux Foundation oversees Fellowship Scheme activities in Senegal and Laos.

→ **In Senegal**, the Foundation hosts a mentee and coordinates the program. The Foundation is responsible for selecting the ten host institutions and mentors (including from Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris, the University of Limoges, ANSES, and VetAgro Sup). It then helps to develop work plans and select collaborative research projects for the mentees to work on as part of the project.

→ **In Laos**, the Mérieux Foundation offers two types of mentorships: professional mentorships focusing on the development of technical skills, and leadership mentorships focusing on the management and governance of AMR. Ten fellows were selected and five of them participated in the fifth edition of the Advanced Course on Antimicrobial Resistance, which was organized at the Mérieux Foundation's Les Pensières Center from November 11 to 15, 2024 (see page 56).



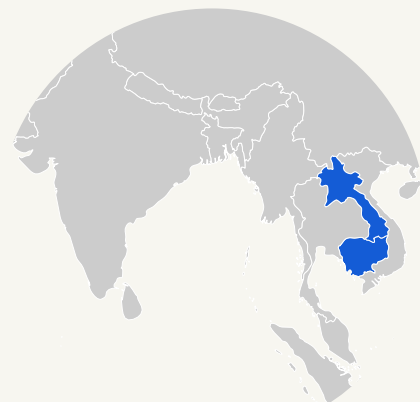
Fellowship Scheme Orientation Workshop in Laos

On June 26 and 27, 2024, the Mérieux Foundation organized an orientation workshop in Vientiane, Laos, attended by the ten beneficiaries and several mentors from the new class of the Fellowship Scheme, as well as mentees from phase I of the program, in order to collect their feedback.

"This workshop contributes to the creation of a global community of AMR leaders and experts, who will be able to contribute significantly to the national response," said Dr. Phonepadith, Director General of the Lao Department of Communicable Disease Control.

This project is funded by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) Fleming Fund programme through UK aid and managed by Mott MacDonald.





Laos | Cambodia **SDG 3**

QWARS phase 2

Developing skills in the field of AMR

After a first phase deployed between 2020 and 2022, the QWARS (Qualifying the Workforce for AMR Surveillance) program continued in 2024 with the start of phase II in Laos and Cambodia. Implemented by a consortium of partners, including the Mérieux Foundation, QWARS is supported by the Fleming Fund. The program is based on developing the microbiology and epidemiology skills of human and veterinary laboratory professionals, in line with the One Health approach.

By training qualified personnel working in national public health infrastructures and focusing on transdisciplinary and cross-border collaboration, QWARS aims to enable participants to contribute effectively to AMR surveillance.

The training courses are provided online and in the classroom for about ten participants in each country and will enable them to obtain a post-graduate qualification. The project is based on the expertise of a consortium of partners: the African Society for Laboratory Medicine, project leader, the African Center for Disease Control, the American Society for Microbiology, the International Pasteur Network and the Institute for Health Research, Epidemiological Surveillance, and Training.



Laos **SDG 3**

BOLILAB

Reinforcing the capacities of laboratory staff

The BoliLab project, supported financially by the Coopération Luxembourgeoise and in close collaboration with the leading national laboratory, the National Center for Laboratory and Epidemiology, aims to strengthen the capacities of health services in Laos. Launched following the construction of the new provincial hospital in Bolikhamxay, the initial project aimed to improve the quality of diagnosis in the province and integrate the hospital's laboratory into the national network.

Since 2023, the extension of the project includes the deployment of an interprovincial skills development program, as well as the refurbishment and creation of new laboratories in the provinces of Bolikhamxay, Vientiane, and Khammouane. In 2024, many initiatives were carried out with the support of the Mérieux Foundation: coaching program on leadership and laboratory management, training modules facilitating the understanding of test results, meetings between prescribers and the laboratory to exchange experiences, etc.

The Foundation also awarded four scholarships enabling four provincial managers to participate in an intensive course on leadership at the Faculty of Associated Medical Science of Chiang Mai University in Thailand. A new group of students is expected to access the program in 2025.



Interprovincial workshop

On July 10 and 11, 2024, the Mérieux Foundation and the National Center for Laboratory and Epidemiology (NCLE) brought together 32 representatives from laboratories in the provinces of Bolikhamxay, Khammouane, and Vientiane to encourage collaboration and knowledge sharing within the network.

Dr. Boualay Norchaleun, Deputy Director of NCLE, opened the workshop by highlighting the role of the laboratory network in public health: "Close coordination between laboratories at all levels is essential to ensure accurate and timely diagnosis, leading to improved disease prevention and control across the country."





Lebanon **SDG 3**

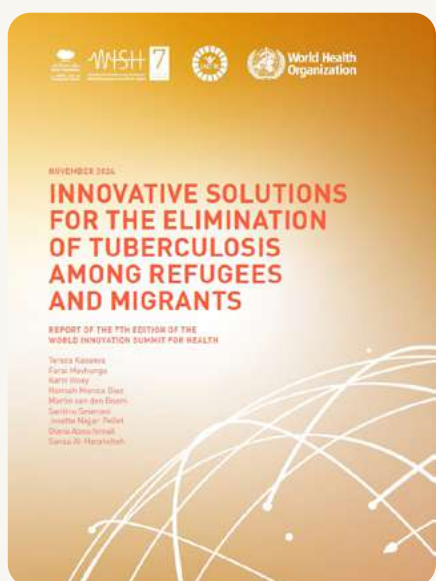
SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS PROGRAM

Ensuring diagnosis activities in the context of a crisis

The Mérieux Foundation has supported the diagnosis and research activities of the National Tuberculosis Program (NTP) in Lebanon since 2018, with the objective of guaranteeing patient care despite the increasing deterioration of healthcare infrastructure in the country.

In 2024, the Foundation continued to provide logistical support for transporting samples and undertook the work required to secure the continuity of operations (equipment to provide backup during frequent power cuts, supply of critical consumables to avoid stock shortages, etc.). This project is managed in partnership with the WHO, the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health, and the Faculty of Pharmacy at Saint-Joseph University, and benefits from financial support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

In 2024, the Mérieux Foundation, the Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory in Beirut, and the NTP finalized a study on tuberculosis infection taking into account demographic and epidemiological specificities related to the presence of high-risk populations in Lebanon: migrants, health workers, contact cases, and prisoners. This study led to the establishment of new recommendations for the screening of tuberculosis infection, which will come into force in 2025.



The Mérieux Foundation participates in the World Innovation Summit for Health

The World Innovation Summit for Health was held on November 13 and 14, 2024, in Doha, and was organized by the WHO on the theme of "Humanizing Health: Conflict, Equity, and Resilience." The Mérieux Foundation was asked to provide its expertise thanks to the strategic role played by its team in Lebanon.

The Foundation participated in the drafting of a report on the elimination of tuberculosis in refugee and migrant populations. The report's recommendations were presented during the event and can now be used for reference in the implementation of prevention policies in the Middle East.



Haiti **SDG 3**

C19-HAÏTILAB

Strengthening the capacity to respond to the threat of an epidemic

Funded by the Agence française de développement (AFD, French Development Agency), the C19-HaitiLab project aims to strengthen the capacities of the system of medical biology laboratories in Haiti in a comprehensive and sustainable way, so that it can respond effectively to an epidemic emergency.

The project combines a decentralized approach in favor of peripheral laboratories in association with the National Public Health Laboratory (LNSP) and a centralized approach to improve the energy performance at GHESKIO centers (Haitian Group for the study of Kaposi's Sarcoma and other opportunistic infections).

Despite the particularly critical security context in Haiti since 2023, C19-HaitiLab has remained operational thanks to the determination and dynamism of local partners and the experience of the Mérieux Foundation team. In 2024, activities in favor of laboratories were finalized, including the installation of microbiological safety stations, the provision of vehicles for the transport of samples, and the creation of a health database. Associated training sessions were also provided for technicians. Unfortunately, travel to the area of Port-au-Prince where GHESKIO is located was not possible, so the planned renovation work was postponed to 2025.





02

Applied research

The Mérieux Foundation supports operational research and diagnostic innovation, with the aim of making long-term improvements to public health in low- and middle-income countries, curbing the spread of infectious diseases, and tackling antimicrobial resistance.

North-South and South-South collaboration

The Mérieux Foundation supports the establishment of strong collaborations between laboratories in the field and centers of expertise in France, such as the French national agency for the health and safety of food, the environment, and work (ANSES) for antimicrobial resistance, the Hospices Civils de Lyon for tuberculosis, and the VirPath laboratory for acute respiratory infections.

Through the GABRIEL network, we help coordinate internationally applied research and strengthen collaboration between countries.

The Mérieux Foundation is convinced of the need for research and innovation to help provide universal access to diagnosis and healthcare. The Foundation supports the development of international research projects addressing the major public health challenges of countries with limited resources.

With this in mind, the Foundation's teams prioritize key initiatives such as:

- Strengthening research capacities in relevant areas that directly affect local populations;
- Promoting diagnostic innovation for the development of less invasive, more rapid tests that are adapted to local needs;
- Support for community intervention projects that have an impact on the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases.

The Mérieux Foundation's activities for reinforcing research focus on three main public health issues: antimicrobial resistance, tuberculosis, and respiratory infections. We help to train research teams in the field and set up collaborative programs around these themes.

These activities rely on the GABRIEL network of laboratories of excellence located in infectious disease hot spots, with many members having been named as reference laboratories in their respective countries. These include the Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratories – infrastructures of excellence dedicated to research and training, which are funded by the Foundation before being transferred to local healthcare providers.





The GABRIEL network

SDG 17

Created in 2008 by the Mérieux Foundation, the GABRIEL network (Global Approach to Biology Research, Infectious diseases, and Epidemics in Low-income countries) is an international scientific network working in synergy to develop research capacities and improve the surveillance of infectious diseases that have a significant impact on public health.

The GABRIEL network covers 22 institutions in 16 countries in Africa, South-East Asia, the Middle East, South America, and the Caribbean: ten Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratories (whose construction is financed and managed by the Mérieux Foundation before being transferred to local healthcare providers) and academic, university, and hospital research institutes. GABRIEL members jointly conduct research programs on respiratory infections, tuberculosis, antimicrobial resistance, and emerging diseases.

2024 GABRIEL network highlights

- **Organization of the 13th international meeting of the network** from November 27 to 29, 2024, at Les Pensières Conference Center, attended by more than 80 public health professionals from 22 countries. The meeting began with a symposium entitled "Emerging Diseases and Epidemics", leading to discussions about scientific progress and the work of the network, with a "Posters" session and themed workshops (introduction of the "Hepatitis" theme in 2024).
- **Launch of an introductory training program in next-generation sequencing and bioinformatics INSEQBIN** in partnership with the FIND Foundation. Available in French and English, the program leads to a certificate for learners who pass the final assessment.
- **Deployment of an External Quality Assessment Exercise** based on the bioinformatic analysis of multidrug-resistant strains of *Escherichia coli*. This exercise aimed to assess the capacity of the laboratories and identified training needs.
- **Establishment of two international working groups:**
 - One on leprosy, with a "Journal club" format to discuss a scientific article, identify common issues, and promote collaborations;
 - The second is an AMR workshop, on subjects of shared interest such as community awareness, climate change, the impact of livestock farming practices, etc.



EVAg consortium

The GABRIEL network is a member of the EVAg (European Virus Archive global) consortium, which collects, characterizes, produces, and distributes viruses and derived products. This platform provides essential resources for the response to epidemics.

The GABRIEL network in figures

15

research projects in progress (5 TB, 3 AMR, 5 ARI, 2 COVID)

92

collaborative publications (2012–2024)

1,752

scientists trained (58 training sessions through mentoring schemes, 59 training workshops and 1 online training)

11

online training modules on epidemiology, clinical research, molecular biology, the diagnosis of arboviruses, biobanks and bioinformatics.



Funding of PhD research grants

To support young researchers, the Mérieux Foundation encourages the establishment of post-graduate programs within the GABRIEL network by awarding PhD research grants for three years. In 2024, five projects were reviewed following the call for applications. The selected PhD focuses on the evaluation of diagnostic tools for leprosy and other neglected tropical diseases in Madagascar (Leiden University PhD program in the Netherlands).



Mérieux Foundation/IRD grants

Set up with the aim of supporting theses carried out in association with an IRD team and for which half of the time is spent in a GABRIEL network laboratory, the Mérieux Foundation/IRD joint grant program launched a third call for applications in 2024.

The selected project focuses on pathogens isolated from cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) in patients with meningitis in Burkina Faso (Nazi Boni University in Bobo-Dioulasso).

Structure and autonomy of the network

The Foundation supports the structuring of the GABRIEL network through several levers aimed at promoting local facilities, boosting the autonomy and initiatives of the laboratories, and strengthening their visibility with regard to international partners and funders:

- **Establishment of an in-depth mapping of expertise** to structure the network around several expert centers specializing in certain areas of treatment (tuberculosis, respiratory infections, AMR, and emerging pathogens) and highlight the similarities and synergies that could be exploited to develop future collaborative projects. An update is in progress.
- **Support for the submission of projects** to help laboratories respond to calls for projects from international funders, as a coordinator or partner in international consortia. In 2024, six research projects were submitted to funders, including the Global Health EDCTP3 partnership, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Expertise France initiative, and the Stop TB partnership.
- **Support for the development of collaborative programs**, such as the surveillance project to monitor variants of SARS-CoV-2 (Bangladesh, Cameroon, Lebanon, Madagascar, and Mali), the results of which were published in 2024, and the TRIuMPH project (One Health surveillance of AMR), operational since 2020 in Malaysia, Pakistan, and Madagascar.



GABRIEL Young Researchers Prize

Five young researchers presented their research at the international meeting of the GABRIEL network and two of them were awarded the Young Researchers Prize:

- **Ashabul Islam** of the International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research in Bangladesh (icddr,b) for his analysis of the RISK6 test in extra-pulmonary tuberculosis;
- **Mahin Hasan** of the Institute for Developing Science & Health Initiatives (ideSHi, Bangladesh) for his project on the genomic characterization of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* in children.



Tuberculosis

In partnership with National TB Control Programs, civil society organizations, and research institutes, the Mérieux Foundation develops studies aiming to improve screening and care for TB patients.



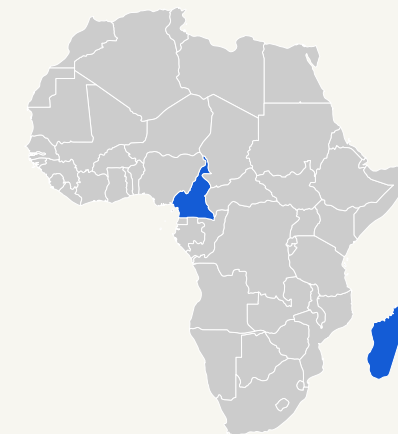
Cameroon | Madagascar

SDG 3

Tuberculosis

APRECIT

Improving treatment for tuberculosis infection



Four years after its launch, the project for improving the treatment of TB infection (APRECIT) ended in 2024. Funded by Expertise France, APRECIT was the result of the Mérieux Foundation's cooperation with the Institut Pasteur in Madagascar and with the Pasteur Center in Cameroon. This operational research program aimed to **identify the best strategies for screening for TB infection at the community level**, in line with the WHO's recommendations, which call for the early treatment of people living in the home of a patient with TB disease.

As part of the project, community agents and medical staff raised awareness among populations and monitored individuals at risk, particularly household contact cases. At the same time, a study assessed the cost effectiveness of several screening and management strategies tailored to the socio-economic realities of Madagascar and Cameroon. In total, more than 2,000 people received support and more than 50 agents were trained in community intervention and testing.

The results made it possible to **make recommendations to the National TB Control Program to better target the people to be treated preventively**. APRECIT also offers a scalable model for other regions with high TB prevalence, highlighting the importance of innovation and cross-sector collaboration to sustain an effective approach to screening and managing the disease among the most vulnerable populations.

As part of the APRECIT-BIS project funded by ANRS Emerging Infectious Diseases, the biological sample banks set up during the APRECIT project are being analyzed by three innovative screening approaches. These innovations show promising characteristics for large-scale deployment directly in the field, in order to help health authorities identify more precisely the beneficiaries of preventive treatment for tuberculosis.

"Thanks to the APRECIT project, the National Tuberculosis Control Program has been significantly enhanced. The Ministry of Public Health is currently committed to a proactive screening phase, targeting cases of latent tuberculosis infection, to further control the spread of the disease."

Rakotondrazanany Haro Lalaina, head of Madagascar's National Tuberculosis Control Program



Offering a triage solution for pneumonia vs. tuberculosis



In partnership with the AnBer Foundation, the Mérieux Foundation has just launched the RISK4Kids project with the aim of facilitating the differential diagnosis of tuberculosis and pneumonia in children under the age of 10.

RISK4Kids aims to provide a solution to the difficulty in distinguishing tuberculosis from pneumonia due to the overlap of their clinical symptoms (cough, fever, and respiratory distress) and the lack of reliable diagnostic tools. These complications in making a diagnosis contribute to high rates of inadequate treatment and the emergence of antimicrobial resistance.

The study proposes to evaluate the accuracy and positioning of two rapid, non-invasive triage approaches:

- Computer-aided thoracic imaging;
- The RISK6 test (plasma protein assay) which was evaluated in pulmonary tuberculosis in adults within the GABRIEL network.

Tuberculosis

Scientific publications

In 2024, the Mérieux Foundation participated in two important scientific publications on tuberculosis prevention:

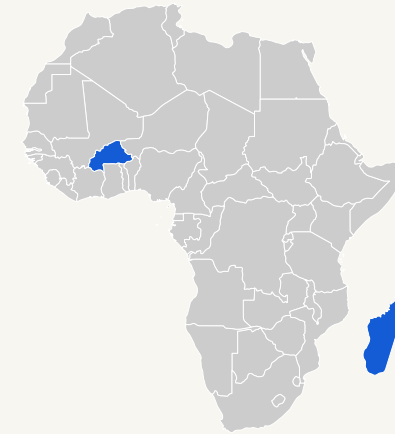
→ **Collaboration with The Union** (International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease) on a series of articles dedicated to improving the diagnosis of childhood TB in its scientific journal *IJTLD Open* (*International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease*). Jonathan Hoffmann, head of the Tuberculosis Program at the Mérieux Foundation, wrote the editorial highlighting the importance of community engagement when dealing with shortcomings in diagnosis. Other articles cover the evaluation of blood tests within the framework of the DEDICATE project and breath tests as part of the EBC-LAM project, both carried out by the Foundation.

→ **In Lebanon, the Mérieux Foundation team was asked by the WHO** to participate in the drafting of a reference report on innovative solutions to eliminate TB in migrant and refugee populations. The Foundation's contribution was acknowledged by Tereza Kasaeva, Director of the WHO's Global TB Program during her presentation at the World Innovation Summit for Health in November 2024.



Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

An increasing threat to public health, putting the prevention and treatment of bacterial diseases at risk, the WHO has a global action plan for tackling antimicrobial resistance, for which the Foundation offers its support in terms of research and surveillance, in accordance with the global One Health strategy.



Madagascar | Burkina Faso

SDG 1, 3 & 7

AMR

AMR DATA CENTER

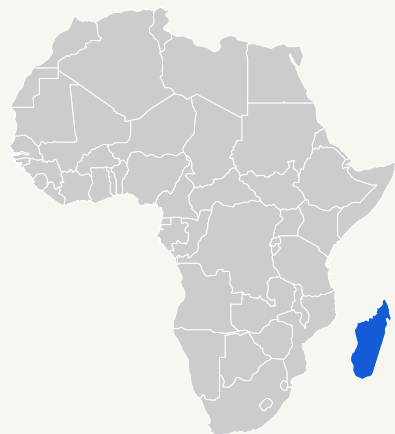
Defining surveillance indicators

The Charles Mérieux Center for Infectious Disease in Madagascar and the Sourou Sanou university hospital in Burkina Faso, both members of the GABRIEL network, launched a collaborative project in 2023 to **create a data center to strengthen the surveillance of antibiotic resistance**. Based on robust data collection and analysis tools, this platform will share results with the medical community and policy-makers in each country, enabling them to define the relevant indicators to track the impact of public health measures on AMR.

The Mérieux Foundation is providing technical support, in particular for the IT and security aspects. It is also coordinating activities alongside the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which is providing support in connection with the "Grand Challenges 2022" call for projects dedicated to public health interventions based on data, one of the cornerstones of the WHO's action plan for dealing with AMR.

In 2024, the preparatory work culminated in the definition of the data center specifications, the design of the IT infrastructure, and the development of the digital solution. The beta version of the Data Science Center has been presented to stakeholders.





Madagascar

SDG 3

AMR

ONE HEALTH AMR SURVEILLANCE

Implementation of the WHO tricycle protocol



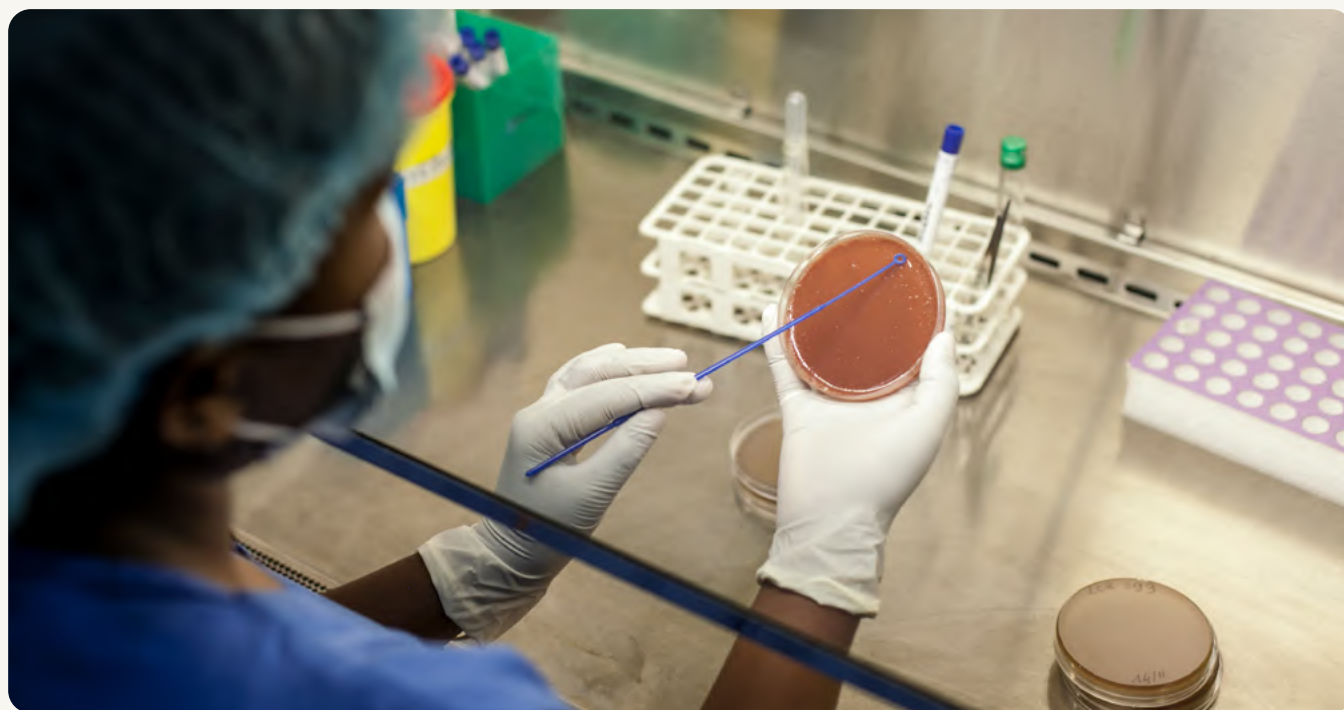
The Tricycle protocol

The WHO's Tricycle protocol is an integrated, multi-sector monitoring initiative to track the prevalence of extended-spectrum beta-lactamase (ESBL) producing *Escherichia coli* in the human, animal, and environmental sectors. It was designed to provide data on the circulation of resistant strains, better understand the mechanisms of transmission between sectors, and facilitate the implementation of appropriate and coordinated responses.

As part of a collaboration with the WHO, INSERM, the Charles Mérieux Center for Infectious Disease in Madagascar, the hospital laboratories of the RESAMAD network, and Paris Cité University, the Mérieux Foundation published in 2024 the results of a surveillance study targeting extended-spectrum beta-lactamase-producing *Escherichia coli* (ESBL *E.coli*), one of the enterobacteriaceae classified by the WHO as a global health priority due to its ability to inactivate certain classes of antibiotics.

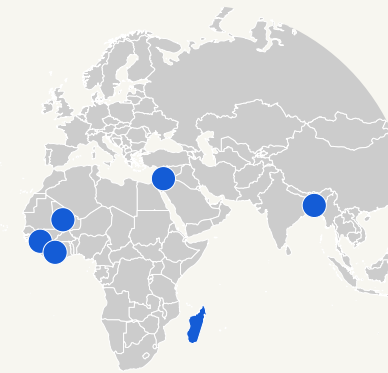
The prevalence of ESBL *E. coli* was assessed between April 2018 and April 2019 in humans, livestock, and the environment in order to study the intersectoral circulation of strains. Carriage rates in the human and animal sectors were 30% and 57% respectively and the bacterium was isolated from all environmental samples (surface water). These findings were published in the journal *The Lancet Microbe*.

This is **one of the first projects to address the circulation of bacterial resistance from a One Health perspective using a rigorous and standardized protocol**. It is also the first analysis of isolated strains involving complete genome sequencing, carried out under the WHO Tricycle protocol.



Acute respiratory infections

Pneumonia (acute lower respiratory) infections are a major public health issue in developing countries and are the leading cause of infant mortality worldwide. Several research programs are underway within the GABRIEL network: on viral and bacterial co-infection and on the incidence and etiology of pneumonia infections.



6 Countries **SDG 3** Acute respiratory infections

NOSO-COR

Documenting the nosocomial transmission of COVID-19

The lessons learned from NOSO-COR include:

- 12.6 % of cases were considered clinically serious with a mortality rate of 6.9 %;
- Cardiovascular diseases and diabetes are the most common associated pathologies;
- The average age of death was 64.5 years (with significant differences between countries);
- Despite the disparity in care practices across countries, the results suggest that COVID-19 severity and mortality were primarily related to advanced age.

In 2020, to address the high circulation of COVID-19 within healthcare institutions, the Mérieux Foundation and the Hospices Civils de Lyon developed the NOSO-COR research protocol to assess the risk of nosocomial transmission. The Mérieux Foundation conducted this study internationally in partnership with six members of the GABRIEL network: four in Africa (Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, and Madagascar), one in Asia (Bangladesh), and one in the Middle East (Lebanon).

The results of the study were published in February 2024 in the *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene* under the title "Characteristics of hospitalized COVID-19 patients at admission and factors associated with clinical severity in low- and middle-income countries: an observational study." Conducted during the first year of the pandemic, the study describes the demographic and clinical characteristics of more than 1,000 hospitalized patients.

These results will enable the **proposal of solutions to reduce the risk of nosocomial transmission of COVID-19**, and to some extent, improvements to infection prevention in hospitals and disease control policies. This work further documents the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in low- and middle-income countries, for which little data has been available until now.





Cameroon **SDG 3** Acute respiratory infections

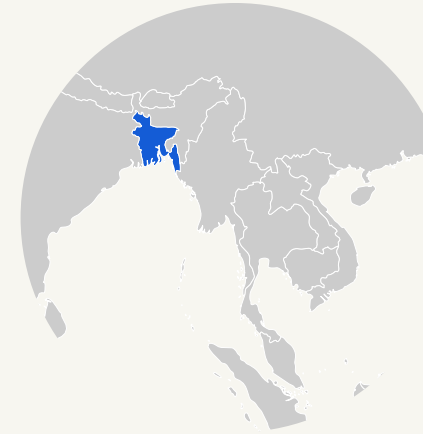
AFCON 2022 and COVID-19

Analyzing the impact of AFCON 2022 on the spread of the epidemic

In 2024, a study conducted through the GABRIEL network in collaboration with the Pasteur Center in Cameroon was published in the *Journal of Public Health*, analyzing **the impact of the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2022 on the spread of Covid-19**. The event took place from January 9 to February 5, 2022, in Garoua in northern Cameroon.

This study covers the period from November 2021 to March 2022 (before, during, and after the event), and examines the effectiveness of the preventive measures put in place, including PCR tests and health passes, to limit the transmission of the virus among participants and the local population. Nearly 4,000 tests were performed among the general population and asymptomatic AFCON participants.

Despite tens of thousands of people being concentrated in a small area, the results show a steady decline in positive cases during the event, comparable with the curves observed in neighboring countries over the same period (Nigeria and Gabon). This means that the celebrations did not lead to a significant increase in Covid-19 cases, demonstrating **that similar outdoor events can be organized without raising the transmission rate, as long as appropriate preventive measures are put in place.**



Bangladesh **ODD 3** Acute respiratory infections

PNEUMO-DX

Improving the diagnosis and management of childhood pneumonia

Launched by the Mérieux Foundation in 2024 in partnership with ideSHi (Institute for Developing Science & Health Initiatives), the Bangladesh health department and the Hospices Civils de Lyon, the Pneumo-DX study is being conducted in ten primary healthcare facilities in the Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar. The study is based on **improving the clinical diagnosis of cases of childhood pneumonia through better recognition of symptoms by primary health workers and access to necessary resources.**

Pneumo-DX draws on the Mérieux Foundation's experience in strengthening health infrastructure capacity and is based on two cornerstones:

- Strengthening capacities to diagnose childhood pneumonia:
 - Provision of oximeters and rapid breathing apparatus to facilitate and guide the clinical diagnosis of pneumonia, particularly in terms of severity;
 - Adoption of a rapid diagnostic test;
 - Setting up of a triage system to improve patient management.
- Educational programs for frontline health workers and a community education program for families to enable them to act appropriately and seek treatment quickly.



The study will also provide authorities with epidemiological data about the circulation of *S. pneumoniae* serotypes and the potential replacement of serotypes, so that PCV inoculation campaigns can be assessed.

The importance of improving the clinical diagnosis of pneumonia

In countries with limited resources, which lack diagnostic imaging laboratories and equipment, treatment for pneumonia relies primarily on clinical diagnosis. Pneumonia can be confused with other diseases with similar symptoms, which regularly leads to incorrect diagnoses and inappropriate treatments.

Improving diagnosis in front-line health clinics is therefore vital, particularly in refugee camps, where living conditions accelerate the spread of infectious diseases, including the viruses responsible for respiratory infections.





03 Knowledge sharing

Sharing expertise and scientific advances across borders and disciplines is one of the Mérieux Foundation's key missions and a prerequisite for developing effective, sustainable strategies for dealing with public health challenges in low-income countries.

Knowledge sharing has long been a cornerstone of the Mérieux Foundation's commitment. It is based on an international and interdisciplinary approach to cooperation that encompasses all our activities. This approach involves all our departments and various formats to ensure interaction and the diffusion of knowledge:

- Training and awareness programs involving intensive courses and shorter modules focused on themes related to our projects;
- Discussion workshops, conferences, and regional or international meetings to share experiences, foster emulation, and promote collective intelligence;
- Strategic collaborations with other players engaged in the fight against infectious diseases.



Les Pensières: a place of excellence focused on public health

Owned by the Mérieux Foundation and situated on the shores of Lake Annecy, Les Pensières Center for Global Health is a platform for reflection and sharing that offers an outstanding working environment (with conference rooms, catering facilities, and accommodation) to health organizations, associations, and institutions that share the Foundation's values.

On a local level, it also plays an important role in raising awareness of key social and environmental issues.

Knowledge sharing relies on the Mérieux Foundation's conference center, Les Pensières, whose expertise is based on over 40 years' experience in dialog and a commitment to tackling infectious diseases at a global level. In 2024, Les Pensières Conference Center continued its role as a center of excellence in global health within the international scientific and medical community. Throughout the year, more than 8,200 participants attended 200 events, covering topics such as vaccination, medical diagnosis, and antimicrobial resistance. Intensive courses, such as ADVAC on vaccinology and ACDx on diagnosis, contribute to the international influence of the Foundation's activities.

New improvement projects and our Conference Center's continued commitment to CSR and the environment testify to our desire to combine our historical foundations, performance, and modernity to drive progress in global healthcare.

Advanced courses

The Mérieux Foundation now offers a portfolio of five intensive annual training programs for health professionals and representatives of public authorities in charge of developing and implementing public health policies. These programs also offer a platform for making contacts and creating networks of alumni, so that participants can establish valuable and long-lasting professional relations.

In 2023, Epi-Course, an advanced course on epidemiology, was added to the vaccination (ADVAC), diagnostics (ACDx), and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) programs. All are hosted at Les Pensières Center for Global Health, except for the Afro-ACDx regional version, which is delivered in Senegal to French-speaking learners. Other delocalized versions of the major courses could be deployed in the field in order to offer content more specifically adapted to local contexts.



13th edition of the ACDx course **SDG 4 & 17**

Advanced Course on Diagnostics, a week of synergies devoted to diagnostics

Organized jointly by the Mérieux Foundation and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine since 2009, the Advanced Course on Diagnostics focuses on the role and value of diagnostics and on the need to reinforce access to high-quality diagnostics. The course is aimed at laboratory managers and decision-makers in the field of diagnostics in public health.

The program covers sessions on tackling antimicrobial resistance, preparing for epidemics, and technological and social innovation. It offers the ideal environment for learning and discussion in order to strengthen decision-making capacities and initiate new multidisciplinary collaborations.

The 13th edition of ACDx was held from September 15 to 20, 2024, and was attended by 23 participants from 18 countries. Two new sessions were added this year: a presentation on the use of Artificial Intelligence in diagnosing tuberculosis and group work on creative engagement using new tools to facilitate access to diagnostics. The session launched in 2023 on the engagement of the general public in favor of diagnosis was a great success and has now been made an integral part of the program. In 2024, ACDx benefited from grants allocated by bioMérieux and Illumina.

ACDx 2024

5
days of intensive
training and
networking

23
participants

40
reputable experts

430
alumni



Advanced course on diagnostics in French-speaking Africa

Since 2021, the Mérieux Foundation and the Institut Pasteur in Dakar have organized the Afro-ACDx course in Senegal. This is the French version of the ACDx international program, designed to **strengthen the leadership skills of laboratories in West and Central Africa** as part of a One Health approach.

The fourth edition of the Afro-ACDx course was organized at La Somone, south of Dakar, from November 17 to 22, 2024, and attended by 30 participants from 15 countries, 10 of whom were from the veterinary sector. New themes were introduced in 2024, such as the role of Artificial Intelligence in health systems and a comparison of key functions between public and private laboratories. Participants also visited the future MADIBA (Manufacturing in Africa for Disease Immunization and Building Autonomy) vaccine production site at the Institut Pasteur in Dakar.

Six students from the 2023 class benefited from an in-depth leadership session and agreed to share their experiences with the new class. In 2024, Afro-ACDx received financial support from bioMérieux and Illumina.

Afro-ACDx 2024

6

days of intensive training and networking

22

reputable experts

30

participants

Creation of a network of alumni in progress



Advanced course in vaccinology, to promote protection through vaccination

The 24th edition of the Advanced Course in Vaccinology (ADVAC), organized jointly by the Mérieux Foundation and the University of Geneva, took place from May 6 to 17, 2024, training 75 new participants from 40 countries in the complex challenges of vaccinology. Geared towards managers from all levels of the healthcare system, ADVAC provides **an overview of the different aspects of vaccinology**, from immunology to issues of financing vaccination campaigns, including the introduction of new vaccines and the management of clinical trials.

The main events of the 2024 edition included the 8th Lambert lecture on the vaccine against respiratory syncytial virus (by virologist Barney Graham) and the 15th Plotkin lecture on climate change and vaccination (by Dr. Kate O'Brien of the WHO).

Designed as part of a continuous improvement process, the course content incorporates the latest scientific advances, as well as suggestions for improvement from participants from one year to the next. **ADVAC has therefore become a benchmark course in vaccinology**, with over 250 applications received every year for only 75 places. In 2024, 68 European training credits were awarded to ADVAC by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education.



A springboard for discussions and the sharing of experiences

ADVAC stands out for its ability to bring alumni together in a particularly dynamic international network of experts. In 2024, the webinar for former students focused on epidemics and dengue vaccines.

ADVAC 2024

11

days of intensive training and networking

75

participants

80

acclaimed speakers

1,450

Alumni (1 network)



Course on antimicrobial resistance – a One Health challenge

Based on the objectives of the WHO's Global Action Plan on antimicrobial resistance, the AMR course was developed in 2019 by the Mérieux Foundation and Paris Cité University. It champions the values of the interdisciplinary One Health approach to tackling AMR and building critical decision-making capacities in countries with limited resources through education, partnerships, and networking.

The program is based on the five objectives of the WHO's Global Action Plan. Five days to address each issue in turn, from planning to concrete actions in the field: understanding, surveillance, tackling AMR, optimizing antimicrobial use, and advocating for sustainable global investments.

From November 11 to 15, 2024, the fifth AMR course brought together 46 health professionals, scientists, and decision-makers from 20 countries involved in the One Health approach and/or in the fight against AMR in their country and around the world.



Supporting global efforts to combat AMR

The World Health Organization's Global Action Plan on tackling AMR and the global One Health strategy consider awareness and understanding of antimicrobial resistance as a priority and as essential for the adoption, deployment, and implementation of national action plans for tackling AMR.

AMR Course 2024

5 days of training and networking

35 reputable experts

46 participants



Advanced Course on Epidemiology in complex emergency situations

The second edition of the Advanced Course on Epidemiology, Epi-Course, organized jointly by the Mérieux Foundation and Epiconcept, took place from July 15 to 19, 2024, and was attended by 20 epidemiologists from 13 French-speaking countries. Epi-Course was set up in 2023 to fulfill the need to strengthen capacities in epidemiology, after the last two epidemics (Covid-19 and Ebola) revealed shortfalls in warning, surveillance, and investigation systems. The aim is to establish a community of French-speaking epidemiologists working in human, animal, and environmental health, who are able to provide a multidisciplinary and international response to emergency epidemic situations.

The program emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach, communication, and research as essential factors for progress in a complex emergency context. In 2024, several case studies were presented to participants, including spatial sampling techniques and a simulation exercise called "Outbreak Ready 2: Thisland in Crisis" developed by the Ready Initiative, which helps NGOs implement integrated responses to epidemics.

In 2024, the Epi-Course program was accredited by the European Agency for Public Health Education Accreditation, attesting to the quality of the courses delivered and enabling European training credits to be allocated to participants. The program also benefited from grants allocated by bioMérieux and CEPI.

Epi-Course 2024

5 days of intensive training and networking

20 participants

17 reputable experts



Public health Conferences

The Mérieux Foundation contributes to several global public health initiatives, which play an essential role in the fight against infectious diseases. The Foundation also participates in the organization of scientific conferences on medical advances and major topics of interest, in collaboration with a network of international experts.



Conference organized jointly with the WHO SDG 17
Lyon, France – December 17, 2024

Accelerating the fight against antimicrobial resistance

In partnership with the WHO and in connection with the Global Health Festival, the Mérieux Foundation organized a conference to **review the objectives defined at the last United Nations Assembly on the fight against antimicrobial resistance**. The event was held on December 17, 2024, at the WHO International Agency for Research on Cancer in Lyon in the presence of experts representing the WHO, the Global Fund, the One Health Trust, the University of Lorraine, the Fleming Initiative, and the GARDP (Global Antibiotic R&D Partnership).

Themes addressed during the conference included:

- *The importance of strengthening surveillance and prevention systems that take overall population health into account, including access to drinking water, vaccination, and improved healthcare and sanitation infrastructure;*
- *The deployment of appropriate, targeted public information about the issues surrounding AMR in order to raise awareness of the potential impact of antibiotic misuse;*
- *The tools developed by the WHO to facilitate and support AMR action plans, particularly in low-income countries that are on the front line even though access to antibiotics remains a major challenge in these countries.*

In conclusion, the participants reaffirmed the need to act in a collective and coordinated manner, echoing the intervention of Alain Mérieux, President of the Mérieux Foundation, who insisted on *"the essential collaboration between all actors to face these adversaries which know no boundaries, either geographical or between species."*



"I would like to express my deep gratitude for your commitment to antimicrobial resistance. Strengthening capacity is essential in order to improve data quality and be able to take action accordingly."

Yukiko Nakatani, Assistant Director-General of the WHO,
in her closing speech at the meeting

The current challenges in the fight against arboviruses

As part of the WHO's Global Arbovirus Initiative (GLAI), which aims to combat vector-borne viruses with epidemic or pandemic potential, the Mérieux Foundation organized the meeting entitled "Current challenges in the fight against arboviruses". Over two days, experts involved in the implementation of GLAI at global, regional, and national level met at Les Pensières to discuss cutting-edge approaches to surveillance, diagnosis, prevention, treatment, and the integrated management of arbovirus vectors, such as dengue fever, Zika virus infection, and chikungunya.

Maria Van Kerkhove, Director of the Epidemic and Pandemic Threat Management Department at the WHO, delivered a welcome message, indicating how vector-borne diseases are a growing concern, driven by climate change, urbanization, and population displacement: *"It is essential that we move on from reactive management to proactive intervention,"* she insisted. *"This will give us a better understanding of risk factors and transmission dynamics, help stimulate research, and find new diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines against these diseases. A big thank you to the Mérieux Foundation for its unwavering support and commitment to global health issues."*





04

Mothers & children

The Mérieux Foundation is engaged on the ground to help the most disadvantaged populations, especially women and children, who are the primary victims in crisis situations. This area of intervention covers basic human needs as part of a global health approach.

In situations of insecurity or severe poverty, the Mérieux Foundation works alongside local partners as they improve the living conditions of fragile populations. These projects cover access to healthcare and basic needs such as hygiene, food, and housing, as well as education and social and professional inclusion.



Integrated approach to health: a multi-factor approach

Also called "holistic health", an **integrated approach to health** takes into account all the factors liable to influence the health of populations, such as lifestyle, environment, access to essential goods, and the geopolitical context. The global health approach incorporates not only the idea of the absence of disease, but also that of physical, mental, and social well-being. It promotes the importance of access to essential goods and services in health.

The Foundation's commitment covers two types of intervention:

- **The development of health centers** for the most vulnerable communities, as part of a comprehensive health approach covering physical, mental, and social health, as in Lebanon where a second health center is under construction.
- Women and children are among the most vulnerable populations to preventable diseases and deaths in low- and middle-income countries. The lower access of these populations to care partly explains this situation. For this reason, the Mérieux Foundation partners with local actors on the ground to build health centers specially adapted to the needs of mothers and children, as well as to renovate or expand existing infrastructure. These centers are located in isolated places or countries in crisis such as Lebanon and Senegal. Their purpose is in line with our long-standing mission: to provide everyone with access to healthcare. The health centers thus supported include specialties that are particularly underrepresented in these areas, such as gynecology and obstetrics, and psychological support.

- **Support for associations working in the field** to help the most disadvantaged communities. Within the framework of historic partnerships or one-off actions in response to emergency situations, the Mérieux Foundation finances projects run by local humanitarian associations to improve living conditions in the poorest communities.

The Mérieux Foundation also responds to emergency situations in the event of conflicts or natural disasters.

Construction and support of primary health centers



Lebanon **SDG 3**

Delocalization of the activities of the Duris health center

In 2024, the Mérieux Foundation strengthened its commitment in areas of intervention in Lebanon through the MELIBAN Plus project, by ensuring the continuous development of the Duris Health Center for Mothers & Children, located in the Beqaa plain.

In this center, a long-standing partner of the project, the results recorded in 2024 testify to a significant increase in medical and community activities:

- **11,400** consultations carried out, an increase of 25% compared to the previous year;
- **500** vaccines administered;
- **1,500** drug treatments provided, with structured follow-up of chronic patients;
- **400** laboratory tests performed;
- **1,885** mental health consultations, as well as 276 participations in community awareness sessions;
- **55** health education sessions conducted under the Mother & Child Support Program (PAME), reaching approximately 100 women, with themes such as maternal health, breastfeeding, nutrition, and postpartum care.



In a process of consolidation and decentralization, the Mérieux Foundation has also identified, in close partnership with the Ministry of Public Health, two new primary health centers in Ksara (Zahlé) and Rachaya. Their integration into the project follows a series of technical assessments, field visits, and institutional consultations. This expansion reinforces access to care in highly vulnerable regions, while diversifying the offer of services and improving reception capacity.

Finally, an in-depth diagnosis of the Rachaya center highlighted an urgent need for expansion, in order to meet the growth in demand and offer better reception conditions for patients and medical staff alike. These results illustrate the concrete impact of the MELIBAN Plus project in improving the quality and accessibility of care, as well as in strengthening local capacity and institutional partnerships.

Under the supervision of the Ministry of Public Health, the project is being coordinated by the Mérieux Foundation with the support of the Department of International Cooperation of the Principality of Monaco.



Lebanon **SDG 3**

Construction of a primary health center in Baalbek

Based on the experience of the Duris center, in 2023 the Mérieux Foundation launched the project to build a health center in Baalbeck, in the north of the Beqaa plain. Carrying on from the Foundation's activities to improve access to care in the region, this project aims to improve access to health services for the military, their families, and the most vulnerable local civilian populations.

On August 8, 2024, the Mérieux Foundation and the Lebanese Army signed an agreement to create the center, in conjunction with the Baalbeck Hermel Governorate. On land provided by the Lebanese Armed Forces, the Mérieux Foundation will provide its expertise for the design, construction, and equipping of the center, which will be integrated into the network of Primary Healthcare Centers of the Ministry of Public Health. Construction work will begin in 2025.



Senegal **SDG 3 & 5**

Development creation of a Mother & Child center in Thiadiaye

The Mérieux Foundation has launched the project to create a service specializing in the care of mothers and children in the Thiadiaye health center, in western Senegal. This involves contributing to the improvement of maternal, newborn, and child health in an inclusive and holistic approach covering clinical, psychological, social, and nutritional care, as well as parenting support.

In 2024, the service providers were selected and the recruitment of staff began, as well as the program to strengthen the quality of the laboratory, led by the Laboratory Department under the supervision of the Mérieux Foundation. The Foundation also provides expertise in project management assistance for the design, implementation, and monitoring of the works, which will start in 2025.

Co-financed with the Directorate of International Cooperation of Monaco and the AnBer Foundation, this project was set up in collaboration with several directorates of the Ministry of Health and Social Action of Senegal, the Medical Region, the Health District, and local associations.



Support for associations in the field



Cambodia

SDG 1, 3 & 4

Improving education for Children of the Mekong

Created in 1958, Enfants du Mekong is a French sponsorship association whose mission is to educate, train, and support children and young people in Southeast Asia.

The support provided by the Mérieux Foundation to the NGO Enfants du Mekong takes two forms:

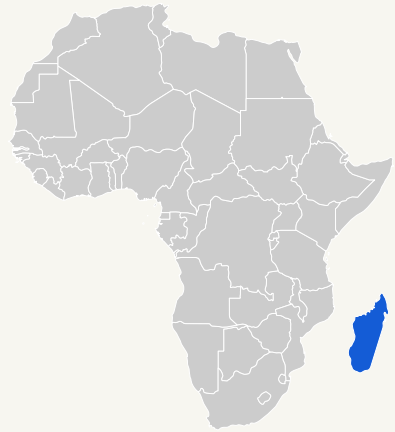
→ Support for the Docteur Christophe Mérieux Center

Since 2010, the Mérieux Foundation has supported the Christophe Mérieux University Center in Phnom Penh, which offers the opportunity for students from disadvantaged backgrounds to pursue higher education. Since 2013, the center has also been enrolling kindergarten children. In 2024, the financial support of the Mérieux Foundation made it possible for 117 students and 65 kindergarten students to attend the center, and to provide assistance to 480 other children. More than 60 children living around the center also benefited from English classes and educational activities.

→ Support for the Mother & Child Program

Since 2018, the financial support of the Foundation has enabled the association to deploy a social family support project aimed at guaranteeing children a safe material and emotional environment. Almost 200 families in situations of great insecurity were supported in 2024, (distribution of food and hygiene kits) and 127 mothers in difficulty benefited from the distribution of breast milk for their newborns. Training sessions in budget management, first aid, and parenthood were organized for more than 170 parents and around 30 construction/renovation projects were financed.



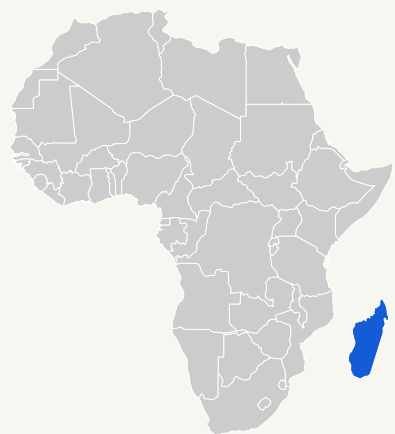


Madagascar **SDG 1**

Providing aid to the poorest with Akamasoa

The Mérieux Foundation has been supporting the Madagascar anti-poverty association Akamasoa «les bons amis» since 2014. Akamasoa works to improve the living conditions of villages on the outskirts of Antananarivo by providing access to hygiene, education, and health to populations living in extreme poverty. The Foundation's endowment is intended for the financing of infrastructure projects and the care of hospitalized patients suffering from infectious diseases.

After funding the construction of Saint Vincent de Paul-Akamasoa University in 2022, the Foundation continues to support the development of the structure, which is attended by more than 1,000 students from poor families, from all provinces of the island. In 2024, a university restaurant and solar panels were installed on campus. Other projects financed in 2024 include the creation of ten new classrooms in the public primary school in the village of Andralanitra, the installation of a 400 m² metal roof for the nursery in the same village, and the construction of six hospital rooms in the Akamasoa hospital.

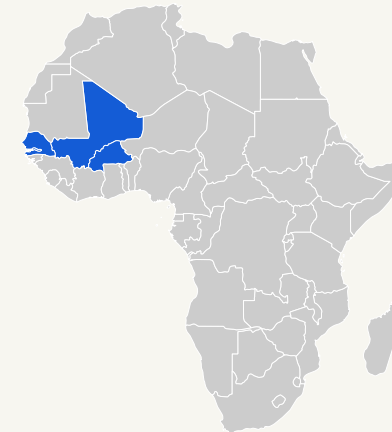


Madagascar **SDG 3 & 5**

Participating in the construction of a Mother & Child center

Since 2023, the Mérieux Foundation has supported the Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, which manages the Précî Sainte-Anne dispensary in the village of Ambatofotsy-Bemahatazana in the center of the island. The medical center conducts a large number of activities (outpatient consultations, hospitalizations, deliveries, prenatal and postnatal consultations, vaccinations, etc.) in a very large rural area, covering nearly 4,000 inhabitants within a 60-kilometer perimeter.

In 2024, a building housing a maternity and pediatric center was built with the support of the Mérieux Foundation to improve access to maternal and child healthcare. It was inaugurated at the end of the year.



Mali | Senegal | Burkina Faso **SDG 2, 3 & 4**

Combatting exclusion with Samusocial

The Mérieux Foundation contributes to the operation of Samusocial in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Senegal through the payment of a grant to Samusocial International. This endowment supports local mobile teams offering medical, psychosocial, and educational assistance to children and young people in situations of major exclusion.

In 2024, nearly 5,000 young people living on the streets of Bamako, Dakar, and Ouagadougou were supported, as well as 6,700 displaced people. 1,255 children, young people, and women were accommodated in emergency accommodation and 330 of them were supported in their project to get off the streets and pursue socio-professional reintegration (reconnecting with their families, education, training, etc.). In total, 17,000 medical treatments were delivered by the three Samusocials, as well as nearly 10,000 psychological interviews and more than 2,600 awareness sessions.



Twenty years of commitment to Samusocial

Launched in 2005 in Mali with the Fondation Christophe et/and? Rodolphe Mérieux, support for Samusocial was extended to Senegal and Burkina Faso in 2009.



Responding to emergencies



Lebanon **SDG 3**

Acting in times of conflict in Lebanon



In 2024, the resumption of conflict in southern Lebanon and its extension into the interior of the country caused a large-scale humanitarian crisis, with more than 1.2 million people displaced, the closure of more than a hundred primary health centers, and extreme pressure on frontline services. In this context of instability, the Mérieux Foundation, in coordination with its partners, adapted its action to ensure access to care and respond quickly to the priority needs of affected populations.

After identifying the needs of the different areas with the crisis cells of the Lebanese governorates, it was decided to distribute hygiene kits (more than 1,000 kits were provided to 25 accommodation centers in the Beqaa plain for the benefit of nearly 7,000 people) and first aid kits (for the Lebanese Civil Defense and 16 accommodation centers, in coordination with first aid workers).



Haiti **SDG 3**

Supporting our historic partners in Haiti



The further deterioration of the security context in Haiti weighed heavily on the Foundation's operations in 2024. While some interventions were delayed, our teams provided emergency assistance to our local partners, in particular the GHESKIO Centers (Haitian Study Group on Kaposi's Sarcoma and Opportunistic Infections), meeting the basic needs of families accompanied by the NGO (food kits, rent, medical aid).

In Léogâne, the Village of Nazareth, which takes in orphaned or vulnerable girls, food and health assistance was provided to 200 displaced families, as well as in Verrettes, north of Port-au-Prince, where the Foundation helped 70 people supported by the Kilb Timoun Ke Kontan association (AKTKK).

Small Grants 2024

SDG 1, 2, 3 & 4

The Mérieux Foundation's "Small Grants" program is intended to support local initiatives to fight infectious diseases in countries with limited resources, particularly projects relating to the health of mothers and children. With an annual endowment of €50,000, this program awards grants of up to €5,000 to small organizations and individual projects with a strong local impact. Ten projects were selected in 2024.

Support for primary healthcare structures

- **Strengthening pediatric emergency rooms in the Tay Giang district in Vietnam** to reduce child mortality: provision of equipment to neonatal intensive care units and training of care teams from ten medical units (VinaCapital Foundation).
- **Development of child eye health services in Abéché, Mongo, and N'Djamena in Chad**, through the training of health workers, the provision of equipment, and the implementation of awareness campaigns (Organization for the Prevention of Blindness)
- **Maternity and laboratory equipment at the Santa district hospital in Cameroon**, coupled with a community information program to reduce maternal and child mortality and the prevalence of HIV/AIDS (Women Inspire Cameroon)
- **Renovation of the laboratory of the Luvuvamu pediatric mini-clinic in the Democratic Republic of the Congo** through the renovation of the laboratory, the creation of a vaccination room, the acquisition of equipment, and the training of staff (Nutrition and Health Promotion)

Global health actions (WASH & Nutrition)

- **Preventing cholera outbreaks** by improving access to safe drinking water by drilling two wells in the rural area of Kagando-Uvira in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Community awareness-raising actions on good hygiene practices were also carried out (Action for Health, Environment, and Development)
- **Installation of an autonomous drinking water supply system** in the YEMPAO nursery and elementary school, attended by more than 400 students in Yaoundé, Cameroon (Research and Development Without Borders)

Education and awareness

- **Deployment of educational sessions in ten Lebanese schools and a personalized support program** for 300 people living with HIV/AIDS in order to reduce the transmission of the virus and combat the stigmatization of patients (Proud Lebanon)
- **Holistic care for pregnant women and newborns in vulnerable situations in Greater Lomé, Togo**: prenatal, nutritional, psychosocial consultations, community awareness (Institute of the Sisters of Saint Francis of Assisi)
- **Malaria prevention among pregnant women and children under five in the municipality of Avrankou in Benin** through the distribution of mosquito nets and digital awareness-raising actions (United Youth Foundation)
- **Fight against malnutrition and malaria among children in Toffo, Benin**, through the training of mothers, support for the creation of income-generating activities, and a radio information campaign (Mutuelle de Jeunes Chrétiens pour le Développement)



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"Building on our expertise in biology, we are working closely with international and local partners as part of multidisciplinary, complementary and, above all, concerted approaches with a longterm perspective."

Alain MÉRIEUX - President

To successfully carry out its development projects in LMICs and ensure they produce sustainable results, the Mérieux Foundation brings together national and international public and private partners with local organizations. The trust and commitment of its new or long-standing partners have made it possible for the Foundation to help local stakeholders in their fight against infectious diseases. The Mérieux Foundation thanks them warmly for their support.

Regional, national & international institutions

Agence française de développement (AFD)
Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)
Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)
Department of International Cooperation of Prince's
Government of Monaco
Economic Community of Central African States
Expertise France
Fleming Fund: UK Department of Health and Social
Care via Mott McDonald
International Development Association (IDA) via WAHO
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
L'Initiative (Expertise France)
Luxembourg Government Aid and Development
Agency (LuxDev)
Region Auvergne Rhône-Alpes
The Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial
Resistance (JPIAMR)
United States Agency for International Development
(USAID)
Wellcome Trust
World Health Organization (WHO)

Universities & research institutes

Emerging Infectious Diseases (ANRS) French National
Research Agency (ANR)
Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (the
French National Research Institute for Sustainable
Development)
International Vaccine Institute (IVI) University of
Geneva

Foundations & NGOs

African Society for Laboratory Medicine
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Fondation AnBer
Fondation Pierre Fabre
Fondation Saint-Irénée
French Red Cross
IPHARMEX
Qatar Foundation
Santé Monde
The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and
Malaria

Industry & companies

Biomanguinhos
bioMérieux
Compagnie Mérieux Alliance (CMA)
GFA Consulting
GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals (GSK)
Illumina
Institut Mérieux
Janssen Vaccines & Prevention (JNJ)
Merck/MSD
Moderna
Pfizer
Serum Institute of India
Société MBD
Takeda
Valvneva

¹Since September 2024



2024 accounts and key figures — Balance Sheet

ASSETS (K€)	NET 31 DEC. 2024	NET 31 DEC. 2023
FIXED ASSETS		
Intangible fixed assets	247	560
Property, plant and equipment	3,803	4,087
Investments and other financial assets	49,107	47,992
TOTAL	53,157	50,706
CURRENT ASSETS		
Accounts receivable	631	1,453
Other receivables	15,967	8,723
Marketable securities	40,624	42,440
Cash and cash equivalents	10,202	9,849
Prepaid expenses	2,940	1,510
Unrealized exchange losses	2	5
TOTAL	70,366	71,635
TOTAL ASSETS	123,523	122,341

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE (K€)	31 DEC. 2024	31 DEC. 2023
FUND BALANCE		
True endowment	68,216	68,216
Reserves	884	884
Retained earnings	18,078	15,640
Net income / loss for the period	563	2,438
Other endowment	7	7
TOTAL	87,748	87,185
QUASI ENDOWMENT		
Allowance for contingencies	121	180
Funds reserved for future engagements	2,980	1,473
TOTAL	3,102	1,653
LIABILITIES		
Loans	5,027	6,051
Accounts payable	2,756	1,937
Tax and social debts	1,937	1,713
Investment payable	-	-
Other payable	3,201	1,284
Deferred income	19,736	16,795
Unrealized exchange gains	16	-
TOTAL	32,673	27,781
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	123,523	116,619



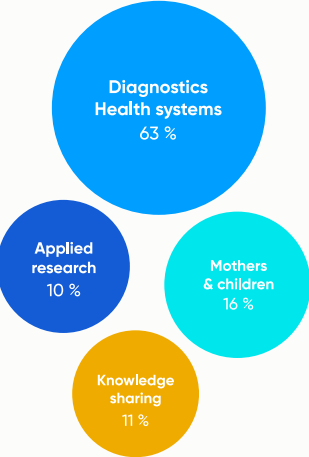
2024 accounts and key figures — Income statement

(K€)	ACTUAL 2024	ACTUAL 2023
INCOME		
Services revenue	808	1,044
Income from third-party funders	20,314	20,072
Expenses refund	620	593
Other operating income	45	56
TOTAL INCOME	21,787	21,764
EXPENSES		
External purchases and expenses	11,116	13,128
Financial aid	4,391	4,780
Taxes and duties	850	787
Salaries and social contributions	7,133	6,651
Depreciations	806	797
Dedicated funds carried over	1,507	-727
Other operating income	215	253
TOTAL EXPENSES	26,019	25,668
OPERATING RESULTS	-4,232	-3,904
FINANCIAL INCOME		
Dividends	942	887
Other financial income	2,741	2,568
Reverse on financial allowances	344	104
Net income from marketable securities	2,343	4,028
TOTAL FINANCIAL INCOME	6,370	7,587
FINANCIAL EXPENSES		
Financial allowances	1,364	950
Other financial expenses	264	235
TOTAL FINANCIAL EXPENSES	1,628	1,185
FINANCIAL RESULTS	4,742	6,402
Exceptional income		
Exceptional income	4	-
Exceptional reverse in allowances	56	-
TOTAL EXCEPTIONAL INCOME	60	0
Exceptional costs		
Exceptional expenses	6	60
Exceptional allowances for contingencies	-	-
TOTAL EXCEPTIONAL COSTS	6	60
EXCEPTIONAL RESULT	53	-60
Income tax	-	-
TOTAL INCOME	28,216	29,351
TOTAL EXPENSES	27,653	26,913
INTERMEDIATE BALANCE	563	2,438



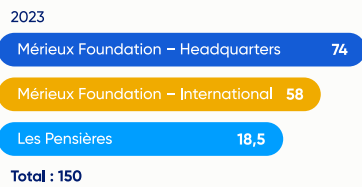
2024 accounts and key figures

Breakdown of expenses by strategic area of focus



Changes in headcount as at December 31, 2024

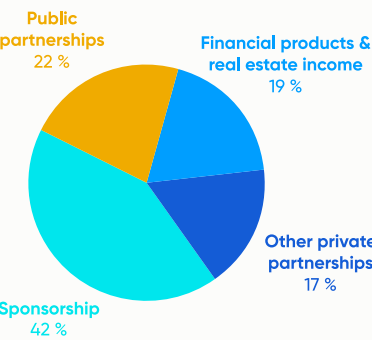
158 employees worldwide*



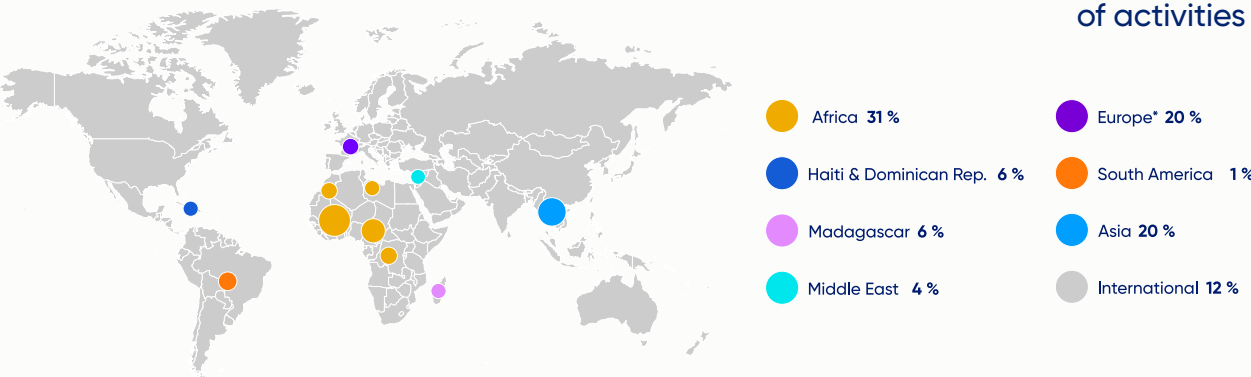
89/100
Gender equality index
for the year 2024, France

*Excluding interns, temporary employees
(155 full-time equivalents)

Breakdown of income



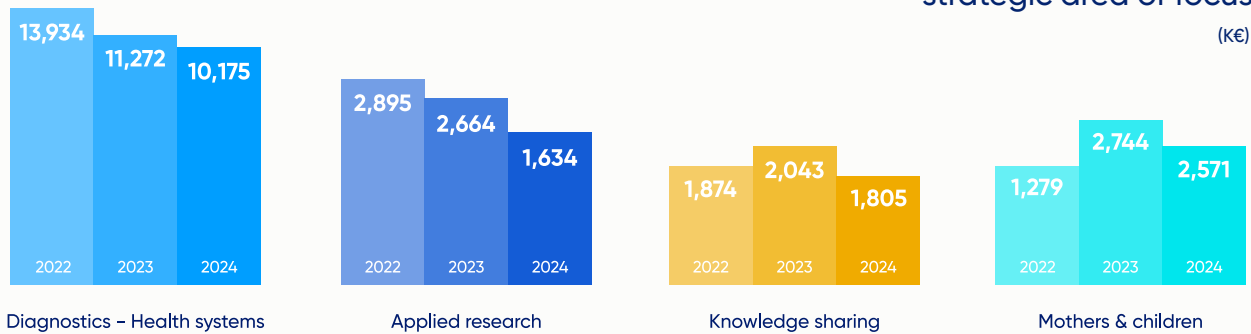
Geographical segmentation of activities



*Missions carried out from Europe to countries
(including coordination)

Evolution of expenses by strategic area of focus

(K€)



FONDATION MERIEUX

Fondation reconnue d'utilité publique
17 rue Beugnot
69002 LYON

Statutory auditor's report on the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

This is a translation into English of the statutory auditor's report on the financial statements of the Foundation (found in French and it is provided solely for the convenience of English-speaking users).
The statutory auditor's report includes information required by French law, such as information about the assumptions of the statutory auditor or verification of the management report and other documents presented to members.
The report includes the text of the statutory auditor's report on the financial statements, French law and professional auditing standards applicable in France.

FONDATION MERIEUX

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Statutory auditor's report on the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

To the Board of FONDATION MERIEUX

Opinion

In compliance with the engagement entrusted to us by your Board of Directors, we have audited the accompanying financial statements of FONDATION MERIEUX for the year ended 31 December 2024.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the assets and liabilities and of the financial position of the Foundation as at 31 December 2024 and of the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with French accounting principles.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with French accounting principles, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is expected to liquidate the Foundation or to cease operations.

The financial statements were approved by the Treasurer.

Statutory Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our role is to issue a report on the financial statements. Our objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with professional standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As specified in Article L. 823-50-1 of the French Commercial Code (code de commerce), our statutory audit does not include assurance on the viability of the Foundation or the quality of management of the affairs of the Foundation.

As part of an audit conducted in accordance with professional standards applicable in France, the statutory auditor exercises professional judgment throughout the audit and furthermore:

- Identifies and assesses the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, designs and performs audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtains audit evidence considered to be sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for his opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtains an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluates the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management in the financial statements.

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- Assesses the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern. This assessment is based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of this audit report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern. If the statutory auditor concludes that a material uncertainty exists, there is a requirement to draw attention in the audit report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are not provided or inadequate, to modify the opinion expressed therein.
- Evaluates the overall presentation of the financial statements and assesses whether these statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Lyon, May 28th, 2025

The Statutory Auditor

French original signed by

Durand & Associés

Amaël de GASQUET

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Fondation Mérieux

Fighting infectious diseases since 1967

contact@fondation-merieux.org

www.fondation-merieux.org



Find our annual report online!

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Antonin Bouvier
ASED
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Les Pensières
Martin Grosjean
Fondation Mérieux
Olivia Mérieux
Sango
Saoyuth DARA

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