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NEWS OF THE MONTH - NOVEMBER 2025



NTDs Around the World - Affected Voices

[Registration](#)

- Next webinar in the “NTDs Around the World” series
- Focus on community leaders with lived experience of NTDs
- Speakers from Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Pakistan and Nepal
- Extended Q&A to engage directly with affected voices

The upcoming “Affected Voices” webinar in the “NTDs Around the World” series will bring together community leaders living with or affected by neglected tropical diseases from Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Pakistan and Nepal. They will discuss daily realities, stigma, advocacy and community action around NTDs. A keynote will be given by Dr Anil Fastenau (DAHW/GLRA). The event takes place on 3 December 2025 at 11:00 EST / 16:00 UTC / 17:00 CET / 18:00 EAT / 21:00 PKT / 21:30 NPT and is supported by the Working Group NTD of the young DTG.

TOPICS

NTDs around the world

Affected Voices

Editors Choice

A Systematic Review of Research and Governance in Child and Adolescent Mental Health in Africa

Global Career and Funding Opportunities

Wide range of international grants, fellowships, awards, and career calls

German NTD Youth Ambassador Program

Leonie Maier

Digital

- Travel Medicine and Health in Mobile Populations
- Global Health Matters Podcast



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FESTMIH VIDEO



- FESTMIH celebrates 30 years (since 1994)
- Highlights: 13 ECTMIH congresses, research, and advocacy for health equity
- Video available in English and French
- Focus on global health, partnerships and Health for All

To mark its 30th anniversary, the Federation of European Societies of Tropical Medicine and International Health (FESTMIH) has released a new short video looking back on three decades of work in global health. Since 1994, FESTMIH has built a strong European network, co-organised 13 editions of the European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health (ECTMIH), supported publication of leading research in Tropical Medicine & International Health, and advocated for universal access to healthcare, diversity and collaboration. The bilingual (English/French) video highlights FESTMIH's mission to improve health worldwide through research, innovation, knowledge sharing and stronger partnerships – and invites viewers to join in celebrating progress towards a more equitable world.

[YouTube](#)



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GERMAN NTD YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

In October, the first German “Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) Youth Ambassador program” has started as a joint initiative of the working group for NTDs (AG NTD) within the “young DTG” (German Society for Tropical Medicine, Travel Medicine and Global Health e.V.) and the German Network Against NTDs (DNTDs).

NTDs affect over a billion people worldwide, especially children and the youth. Thus, the WHO NTD Road Map 2021-2030 highlighted the importance of youth engagement for NTDs.

The program aims at engaging students and young professionals early in the field of NTDs and thus including more young voices in advocacy, policy and awareness raising for this group of diseases.

Leonie Maier, a medical student from Leipzig university, is Germany's first NTD Youth Ambassador. In the following, Leonie will introduce herself and her motivation to take part in the program.

My name is Leonie Maier, I live and study in Leipzig, and since October 2025, I am a Youth Ambassador for Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). The program combines many topics that have accompanied and moved me in recent years: global health, international cooperation, medical expertise, and the question of how to make healthcare more equitable.

”



@ONE/Marco Urban

NTDs affect more than 1.7 billion people worldwide – especially children and young people – and are emblematic of global inequalities and structural disadvantage. Yet in our crisis-ridden times, NTDs and the fate of those who suffer from them often remain invisible. It is precisely this invisibility that makes them so political. Reminding us that health is not a neutral space, it challenges us to think about power relations, responsibility, and prioritization in the global health discourse.

I am motivated by the conviction that young people can and should play an important role in this process. As an NTD Youth Ambassador, I want to help raise awareness and visibility of NTDs in Germany and build bridges between medicine, society, and politics. I look forward to networking with other young advocates, learning from each other, and making a small contribution to the implementation of the WHO NTD Road Map 2021 – 2030.



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KEY POINTS

- Only 14 publications from nine African countries identified – major evidence gaps
- Most national regulations guiding research are more than a decade old
- Consent and assent procedures for minors remain unclear and inconsistent
- Strong call for updated legislation, better governance and targeted funding

A Systematic Review of Research and Governance in Child and Adolescent Mental Health in Africa Ojeahere et al. 2025

Children and adolescents with mental health conditions are among the most vulnerable participants in health research, yet the rules that should protect them are often patchy or outdated. In this Editors' Choice open-access review, Ojeahere and colleagues systematically map how research governance and legislation for child and adolescent mental health (CAMH) are framed across Africa. The authors focus on individuals aged 0-17 years and ask a simple but pressing question: what regulations and ethical guidelines actually govern CAMH research on the continent?

Following PRISMA guidelines, the authors searched MEDLINE, Embase, PsycINFO, Global Health and relevant grey literature up to September 2023, without language or time limits. Out of an initial 4,093 records, only 14 publications met the inclusion criteria. These came from nine African countries (South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, Zambia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Rwanda and Tunisia), with South Africa contributing the majority. Figure 1 clearly visualises this stringent filtering process and underscores how little has been written about governance despite a growing body of mental health research involving young people.

Across the included publications, most legal and policy frameworks guiding CAMH research were more than ten years old. The most recent regulation discussed was Uganda's 2017 child and adolescent mental health policy; several others dated back to the 2000s or even earlier. While global frameworks such as the Declaration of Helsinki, the Belmont Report, CIOMS guidelines and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child provide general protection for human research participants, the review shows that these have not consistently translated into clear, child-specific regulations at national level. In many countries, individuals under 18 are legally minors and require parental consent, but national laws rarely spell out how to handle assent, confidentiality or the participation of children without available parents or guardians.

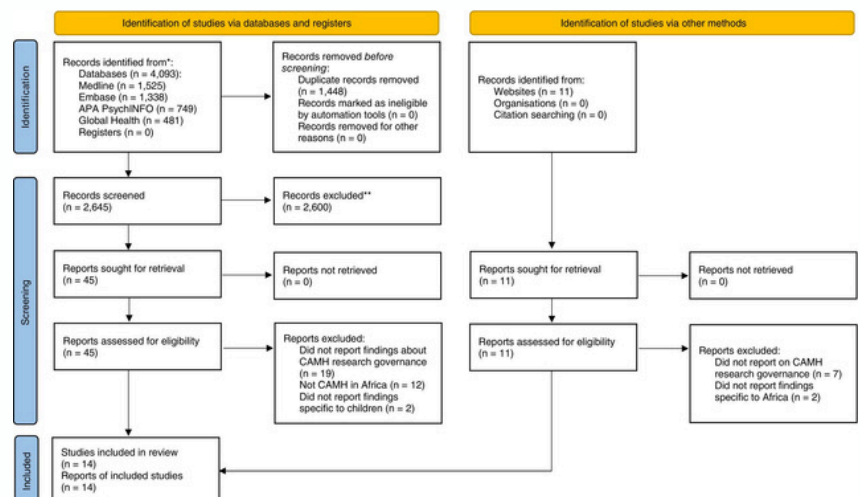


Figure 1: Study selection

Thematic analysis of the 14 publications revealed five recurring themes:

- existing legislation is often perceived as unfavourable or overly restrictive for researchers and ethics committees;
- conducting research on the clinical frontline carries significant practical and ethical risks, especially in under-resourced settings;
- there is a strong call to action to address the dearth of African literature and the low priority given to CAMH research; (
- authors offer concrete recommendations, including intersectoral collaboration, new information-governance approaches and dedicated funding; and
- they outline new directions for research, such as epidemiological studies, school-based work, neurodivergence-informed research and projects focused on consent and capacity.

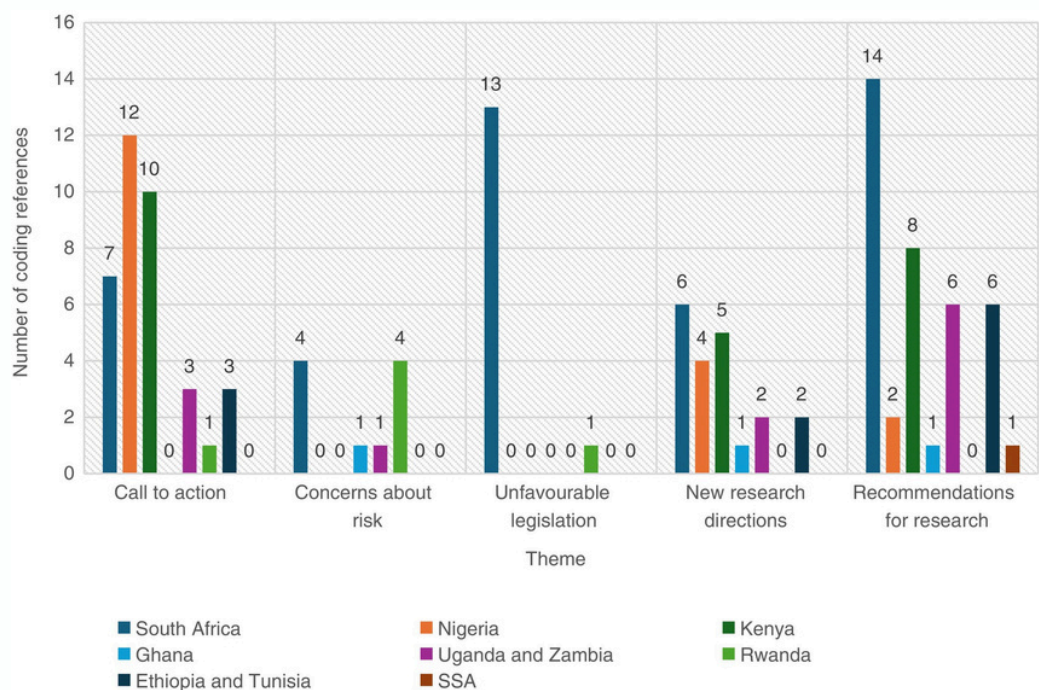


Figure 2: Frequency of themes coded stratified by African country. Of the 14 publications, five (36%) collected primary data, both qualitative (n = 4) [20, 26, 27, 31] and quantitative (n = 2) [31, 32], and the rest (n = 9, 64%) were text/opinion including narrative and scoping reviews. Themes were only extracted if they were supported by at least four articles to ensure that they were substantiated.

Read this Paper

Figure 2 provides a striking visual summary of these findings. It shows both the concentration of evidence in South Africa and the broad spread of concerns about outdated legislation, unclear consent rules and the marginalisation of CAMH research in health agendas. Together, the review and its figures highlight a clear message: to protect children and adolescents with mental health conditions in Africa, research governance and legislation need to be updated, clarified and properly implemented – and CAMH research itself needs to move from the margins to the centre of national and regional priorities.





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GLOBAL CAREER & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

CLIMAKID Winter School 2026 – Climate change, child nutrition and health



- 10-20 February 2026, BISA-CIMMYT, New Delhi (India)
- Focus: climate attribution for child undernutrition and health in South Asia
- 15 fully funded places (travel, accommodation, food)
- Target: early-career researchers in climate, agriculture or health
- Deadline: **15 November 2025** (apply to: acasa@cgiar.org)

The CLIMAKID Winter School brings together early-career scientists to analyse how climate change affects agriculture and child undernutrition in South Asia. Participants will work hands-on with climate, agricultural and health datasets, apply trend and event attribution methods, and help co-design an open-access digital tool for climate-nutrition attribution. Researchers based in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, women scientists and candidates from under-represented groups are particularly encouraged to apply.

[Apply here](#)

Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology – International Summer Internship 2026 (MPIIB-ISI)



Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology – International Summer Internship 2026 (MPIIB-ISI)
Key points

- 3-month paid internship in Berlin (August–October 2026)
- For international Bachelor's and Master's students
- Stipend of €1,400/month plus travel compensation and accommodation
- Focus on students facing personal, financial, regional or societal barriers
- Application deadline: 21 November 2025

The Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology in Berlin is opening applications for its International Summer Internship 2026 (MPIIB-ISI). The programme offers three-month, fully funded research internships for international Bachelor's and Master's students with a strong academic record and a background in fields such as biology, medicine, biochemistry or epidemiology. Interns work on cutting-edge research projects under the supervision of experienced scientists, receive a monthly stipend of €1,400, travel support and housing near the institute, and benefit from a complementary training programme on scientific presentations, PhD applications and networking in Berlin's research landscape. The programme is specifically designed for students whose access to high-quality higher education is constrained; women and students from low- and middle-income countries are strongly encouraged to apply.

[Apply here](#)



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GLOBAL CAREER & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Implementation research for VL elimination in eastern Africa – TDR call



- Call for implementation research on visceral leishmaniasis (VL) in eastern Africa
- Up to 4 projects, max. USD 25,000 each, project duration up to 12 months
- Eligibility: institutions in LMICs, with VL/implementation research expertise
- Must be supported by the national VL control programme
- Deadline: 19 November 2025, 17:00 CET (online via eTDR)

TDR, the UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, invites proposals to generate new implementation evidence for the Strategic framework for the elimination of visceral leishmaniasis as a public health problem in eastern Africa (2023-2030). Priority topics include national scoping reviews of VL research, analyses of implementation research capacity, studies on population vulnerabilities and health service access, socioeconomic impacts, screening and reporting gaps, vector mapping and outbreak investigations in VL-endemic and cross-border areas. Applicants must be researchers or health professionals based in public health institutions, universities, research institutes or NGOs in VL high-burden countries, with a demonstrable track record in implementation and infectious disease research and documented support from their national VL control programme. Applications (in English) are submitted via the eTDR online system using the official TDR grant application form.

[Apply here](#)

ESCMID Global 2026



Registration and abstracts now open

ESCMID Global 2026 – Registration and abstracts now open

Key points

- ESCMID Global 2026 will take place 17-21 April 2026 in Munich, Germany
- Registration is now open – early registration fees available
- Call for abstract submissions for oral and poster presentations
- Accepted abstracts will be published in a citable abstract book
- Important: beware of fake ESCMID websites and always use the official ESCMID Global portal

Registration for ESCMID Global 2026 in Munich is now open. Clinicians, microbiologists, infectious disease specialists and researchers are invited to register early and join one of the leading global meetings in infection and clinical microbiology from 17-21 April 2026. To take part as a presenter, you can submit abstracts of original research or case reports/series to the ESCMID Global abstract programme. All submissions are peer-reviewed, and accepted work will be presented as oral or poster contributions and published in an official, citable abstract book.

ESCMID strongly warns attendees about fake congress websites and fraudulent emails. All registrations and abstract uploads must be completed exclusively via the official ESCMID Global online registration and submission system.

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GLOBAL CAREER & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Erasmus
University
Rotterdam



Workshop on Health Economics in LMICs 2026 (Rotterdam)

- 4–5 June 2026, Erasmus University Rotterdam (Campus Woudestein)
- Focus: health economics research in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)
- Keynote: Martina Björkman Nyqvist (Stockholm School of Economics)
- Full-paper submission deadline: 1 December 2025
- Limited travel grants available for researchers needing financial support

The Rotterdam Global Health Initiative, Erasmus School of Economics and the Global Health Economics Working Group are organising the second Global Health Economics Workshop on 4–5 June 2026 in Rotterdam. The event will bring together development economists and health researchers working on LMIC-focused topics for in-depth discussions in a collaborative setting. A keynote lecture will be delivered by Professor Martina Björkman Nyqvist, and early-career researchers are particularly encouraged to submit full papers on health economics in LMICs by 1 December 2025. With support from RGHl, a limited number of travel grants are available; applicants should include a brief cover letter explaining their need for financial support.

[Apply here](#)



ifa CrossCulture Programme (CCP) Fellowship 2026 Fully funded fellowships for civil society professionals

ifa CrossCulture Programme (CCP) Fellowship 2026 – Fully funded fellowships for civil society professionals

Key points

- Application deadline: 10 December 2025
- 2–3 month fellowship with host organisations in Germany or CCP partner countries
- For professionals and volunteers (23+ years) with ≥2 years' experience in civil society organisations
- Students are not eligible
- Fully funded: €650/month stipend, visa fees, round-trip airfare, accommodation, local transport ticket and health insurance

The ifa CrossCulture Programme (CCP) Fellowship 2026 supports 55–60 early- to mid-career professionals and volunteers from over 40 countries who are active in civil society. Fellows work for 2–3 months with a host organisation in Germany or another CCP country to deepen their expertise, build international networks and strengthen their transcultural skills. Priority thematic areas include policy and society, media and culture, human rights and peace, sustainable development and climate justice, with a 2026 focus on culture of remembrance and democratic resilience. Applicants must be at least 23 years old, have at least two years of professional or volunteer experience in a civil society organisation, and a solid command of English. The fellowship is fully funded and includes structured mentoring, a transcultural workshop and access to the CCP alumni network.



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GLOBAL CAREER & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



TWAS Research Professors in LDCs Host a visiting professor

TWAS Research Professors in LDCs – Host a visiting professor

Key points

- For research groups/institutions in Least Developed Countries (LDCs)
- Host a TWAS Fellow or TWAS Young Affiliate/Alumnus for 2–4 weeks
- TWAS covers round-trip economy travel + honorarium; host covers local costs
- Field: natural sciences; goal: long-term capacity building and collaboration
- Request deadline: 9 December 2025

The TWAS Research Professors in LDCs programme enables universities and research institutes in Least Developed Countries to invite a TWAS Member or TWAS Young Affiliate/Alumnus as a visiting research professor for a short, intensive stay of two to four weeks within a one-year appointment. The visiting professor supports local research activities, offers advanced training and may deliver lectures and seminars, helping to strengthen scientific capacity and establish long-term collaborations. TWAS provides the visitor's travel costs and an honorarium, while the host institution covers local expenses. Requests must be submitted by eligible LDC institutions in the natural sciences by 9 December 2025.

[Apply here](#)



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Travel Medicine and Health in Mobile Populations – Online course (ISGlobal)

KEY INFORMATION

- 12 January – 1 May 2026, online & asynchronous
- Aimed at clinicians working with travellers, migrants and refugees
- Tuition: 750 EUR (or per module: 350 / 200 / 200 EUR)
- Certificate issued by ISGlobal upon completion



ISGlobal is offering an online, part-time course on Travel Medicine and Health in Mobile Populations, providing a comprehensive clinical overview from pre-travel assessment to the diagnosis and management of imported and migration-related diseases in Europe. The course runs asynchronously between 12 January and 1 May 2026 and is divided into three stand-alone modules: Management of Travel-Related Diseases, Pre-travel Medicine and Consultation and Migrant Health. Using case-based interactive lessons, short videos and online clinical rounds, participants will learn to perform individual risk assessments, screen high-risk groups and manage common clinical presentations in returning travellers, migrants and refugees. Successful participants receive a certificate from ISGlobal.

[More Information](#)

Global Health Matters Podcast: “Bridging the knowledge divide”

SUMMARY

- Episode 56, recorded live at the World Health Summit 2025 in Berlin
- Focus: more inclusive global health knowledge ecosystems
- Guests: Joy Phumaphi (Africa Leaders Malaria Alliance) & Monica Bharel (Google Public Sector Health)



[Listen Now](#)

In this episode of Global Health Matters, host Garry Aslanyan speaks with Joy Phumaphi and Monica Bharel about how technology, data, community engagement and new voices are reshaping how global health knowledge is produced and shared. The discussion explores how to ensure communities everywhere can access credible information, contribute their own perspectives and use knowledge for informed action.





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CLOSING NOTE

News of the Month – November

As the year draws to a close, we're pleased to share another edition of FESTMIH's News of the Month, highlighting opportunities, events and publications across tropical medicine and global health. We warmly invite your community contributions—funding calls, trainings, meetings, and news from your institutions—and look forward to continuing to showcase the breadth and diversity of activity within the FESTMIH network.

SHARE YOUR EVENTS & FEEDBACK

Do you have an upcoming event from within your institution, society, or network that you would like to see featured in the News of the Month?

We invite our cooperation partners to share relevant announcements with the FESTMIH Secretariat. Submissions received before the 10th of each month will be considered for inclusion in the following edition.

We also value your thoughts on the NOTM. You can provide feedback anytime by simply scanning the QR code included in this newsletter.

Your contributions and ideas help us keep the NOTM a vibrant and useful resource for the FESTMIH community.



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