LOCATION OF PLATFORM FACILITIES

The Platform's facilities are situated within the Unit's research sites in Entebbe (Wakiso District), Kyamulibwa (Kalungu District), and Masaka City (Masaka District). Additionally, the Platform supports Unit teams embedded within partner institutions, including Masaka Regional Referral Hospital (Masaka District), Entebbe Regional Referral Hospital (Wakiso District), and the AIDS Information Centre in Mengo (Kampala District).

OUR PARTNERS

The Platform collaborates with industry partners, including Johnson & Johnson, ViiV Healthcare, BioNTech SE, and Novartis. We also engage with leading academic and research institutions both locally and internationally, such as Makerere University and Mbarara University of Science and Technology in Uganda, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences and Mwanza Intervention Trials Unit in Tanzania, the South African Medical Research Council and Africa Health Research Institute in South Africa, as well as the University of Oxford, Imperial College London, and King's College London in the United Kingdom.

WHO CAN ACCESS THE PLATFORM?

The Platform partners with researchers within and beyond the Unit, offering the support, resources, and expertise needed to conduct high-quality clinical trials. To explore collaboration opportunities, interested researchers can email ClinicalTrialsPlatform@mrcuganda.org with details of their inquiry.

ABOUT THE MRC/UVRI AND LSHTM UGANDA RESEARCH UNIT

The MRC/UVRI & LSHTM Uganda Research Unit is an internationally recognized centre of excellence for research and training. The Unit was established in 1988 to improve the understanding and control of the HIV epidemic in Uganda and globally, following a request from the Uganda Government to the United Kingdom (UK) Government. After wide consultations, and in response to the changing public health landscape, Unit work has broadened beyond HIV to include other infections, neglected, endemic, emerging and re-emerging infections and non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

CONTACT US

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MRC/UVRI and LSHTM Uganda Research Unit

UKRI Medical Research Council | Uganda Virus Research Institute | London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

CLINICAL RESEARCH AND TRIALS PLATFORM

PLATFORM GOAL ▶

To advance high-quality, innovative, and impactful clinical research and trials across the Unit by optimising research processes, enhancing expertise and capacity, and supporting strategic health priorities to improve patient outcomes and public health in Uganda, Africa, and globally.

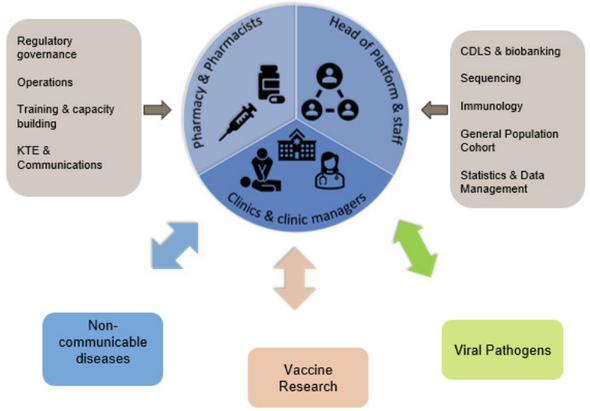
WHY THE PLATFORM?

The Clinical Research and Trials Platform **is one of the core platforms supporting research across the Unit›s three thematic areas—Viral Pathogens, Vaccines, and Non-communicable diseases.** It streamlines clinical research and trials while promoting excellence through capacity building. By consolidating resources under a single platform, we ensure standardised procedures, enhanced operational efficiency, and improved cost management. The Platform strengthens the Unit's capacity to attract well-funded clinical research projects, promotes and facilitates clinical research training, and fosters collaborations aligned with the Unit's scientific strategy.

PLATFORM OBJECTIVES ▶

1. To support Unit Scientific Themes to conduct clinical research and trials.
2. To improve adherence to good clinical research practice and the quality of clinical research at the Unit.
3. To support the efficient planning, set-up, and delivery of projects in compliance with international requirements and donor expectations.
4. To establish the Unit as a centre of excellence for training in clinical research and trials.

LINKAGE WITH OTHER PLATFORMS AND DEPARTMENTS



HOW THE PLATFORM WORKS ▶

1. Enhancing Clinical Research Operations

The Platform ensures the effective management of clinical research operations through a team of experienced staff with training in Good Clinical Practice (GCP), Good Participatory Practice (GPP), Human Subjects Protection (HSP), and well-equipped clinics and pharmacies. It oversees regular maintenance and servicing of equipment to ensure optimal performance. A core team of pharmacy staff oversees the efficient management of investigational products (IP), concomitant medications, and clinic supplies across the Unit clinical research sites. In collaboration with the Research Governance Office and Quality Management Office, the Platform develops and mantains Unit-wide standard operating procedures (SOPs) for clinical and pharmacy operations.

2. Supporting Clinical Trials

The Platform supports investigator-initiated, industry-sponsored, and collaborative trials by: assisting in protocol development, ethics and regulatory submissions, and compliance with GCP; supporting site feasibility assessments, site selection and qualification, and trial initiation; supporting trial monitoring and data quality assurance; establishing and participating in key trial oversight committees, including Trial Management Groups (TMG), Trial Steering Committees (TSC), and Independent Data Monitoring Committees (IDMC); managing importation, storage, and handling of IP; Managing trial execution, including participant recruitment, follow-up, and safety reporting; contributing to the development of data collection tools, clinical trial databases, and supporting data cleaning, management, and statistical analysis; and coordinating multi-country trials.

3. Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange

The Platform is part of the LSHTM Clinical Trials Network, which aims to strengthen capacity in randomised controlled trial design and delivery. Through this Network, the Platform facilitates knowledge sharing by organising monthly seminars and an an annual Trials Day. These events bring together researchers from LSHTM, MRC Unit The Gambia at LSHTM, MRC/UVRI and LSHTM Uganda Research Unit, and other partner institutions to share best practices in clinical trials.

4. Capacity Building and Training

The Platform contributes to scientific leadership and coordination for two new clinical research fellowship schemes: CREATIVE (Clinical Research Training Fellowship with Industry Involvement), supported by EDCTP, and COMPASS (Creating Opportunities for Master's Programmes for Africa: Support and Scholarships), funded by EDCTP and NIHR. These schemes will support early career African scientists to undertake MSc degrees in Clinical Trials and Epidemiology by Distance Learning at LSHTM. Fellows will have the opportunity to gain hands-on clinical research experience through work placements within Platfform-supported research projects. Platform staff teach on the MSc Clinical Trials course at LSHTM, mentor clinical trial trainees at LSHTM and MRC CTU at UCL, and support PhD students undertaking research within clinical trials at the Unit.