

Press release

COVID-19 in Resource-Limited Countries: Results of the Flash Call

The French Agency for Research on AIDS and Viral Hepatitis (ANRS) is announcing today the results of its exceptional call for research proposals on COVID-19 in resource-limited countries, launched on April 1, 2020. The €6.1 million budget allocated to these projects combines ANRS resources with contributions from the Ministry for Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MESRI), the French Development Agency (AFD), Expertise France via L'Initiative, and the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE). Out of the 92 projects submitted, the international committee formed by the ANRS has selected 32 projects for funding.

The selected projects cover all research disciplines within the fields of basic sciences (22%), clinical research (13%), human and social sciences (28%) and epidemiology/public health (37%), and will be conducted in 27 resource-limited countries: 70% in Africa, 18% in Asia, and 12% in South America. Nine of the projects have an international dimension, involving several countries working together at local level. Finally, 21 projects (66%) will be conducted in whole or in part at one of the ANRS sites, namely countries in which the agency has a long-term presence in partnership with the national authorities: Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Egypt, Ivory Coast, Senegal, and Vietnam. What is more, some of the projects conducted in these countries are based on existing ANRS studies on HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

"It gives me great satisfaction to see this call for projects meet real scientific community needs at local level, states ANRS Director, François Dabis. I would like to thank the international selection committee and my teams for their work in making this urgent flash call a success. The agency is demonstrating once again its expertise within the French research landscape, on such a global health topic as COVID-19. "

These efforts by ANRS and its financial partners are in addition to other COVID-19 research activities being conducted in France and internationally. *"The ANRS is currently working with Inserm/REACTing and the Research Institute for Development (IRD) to coordinate French COVID-19 research activities in resource-limited countries and I am delighted that this new scientific animation will be taking place within the National Alliance for Life Sciences and Health (Aviesan), adds Dabis. We will also be coordinating with the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator initiative launched a few days ago by the World Health Organization (WHO). Our response will be adjusted in line with the pandemic and progress made in research – starting with that of the studies that we have just funded".*

Finally, ANRS is continuing its activities in its usual fields. The next six-monthly call for projects will be open from June 15 to September 15 and concern projects on HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infections, and comorbidities (including COVID-19).

For more information

Consult the [list of projects selected](#) following the ANRS Flash Call for Projects on COVID-19 in Resource-Limited Countries

Press contact: information@anrs.fr - @agenceANRS