

2. Capacity building

Aims

Our capacity building programme aims to achieve the following:

1. To increase the number of skilled Tanzanian and East African researchers with the expertise and leadership qualities needed to carry out research to the highest international standards.
2. To increase MITU's breadth of expertise in research, evaluation, and research management.



Objectives

1. To support the professional development of researchers and administrative staff working in MITU/NIMR Mwanza centre through training and ongoing mentorship.
2. Support the development of sustainable research capacity in Tanzania and East African region by implementing training and capacity building activities.
3. To strengthen administrative and financial management systems required to support research and capacity building activities.
4. To strengthen MITU's organisational planning and evaluation activities.

Key actions

We plan to implement the following actions by 2021:

1. Establish an appraisal system for training and development needs.
2. Develop short courses and other professional development opportunities.
3. Establish strong links with other institutions involved in research capacity building initiatives within the region through membership and participation in existing training networks.

3. Knowledge translation into policy

Aims

We aim to achieve the following aims:

1. To inform and influence policy-making both locally and world-wide.
2. To contribute to public policy programme implementation.

Objectives

1. To promote the integration of research findings and evidence into healthcare policy and practice.
2. To be a visible resource for consultations by policy makers.

Key actions

We plan to implement the following actions by 2021:

1. Publication of research findings in the scientific literature creating maximum impact.
2. Conducting events, such as research symposia, to bring together key players.
3. To develop and implement a communications and media relations strategy to raise MITU's profile among policy makers and the general public.



Evaluation

Progress against each of the objectives included in this strategy will be monitored regularly by the Senior Management Team, and on an annual basis by the MITU Board of Management. The strategy will be reviewed and revised as needed to adapt to the changing context and new challenges.



Mwanza Intervention Trials Unit (MITU)

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Mwanza Intervention Trials Unit

Our strategy 2016-21



Our vision, mission & values



Vision

The vision of the Mwanza Intervention Trials Unit (MITU) is to be a world-leading centre for research on Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) prevention and other health problems, and in partnership with local and international organizations to contribute to improving health in the East African region.

Mission

Our mission is to contribute to improving health through the development and evaluation of interventions against HIV and other health problems by conducting research, including clinical trials, to the highest international standards; to enhance the capacity to carry out such research in Tanzania and the East African region; and to contribute to the translation

of research findings into health policy in partnership with other stakeholders.

Values

We seek to create a research environment of the highest standard in which new knowledge is generated and within which future academic leaders can develop.

Our core values are:

- To conduct research to the highest international scientific and ethical standards.
- Commitment to well-being and safety of research participants.
- Effective academic leadership contributing to organizational success and the nurturing of future academic leaders.

- Commitment to building sustainable capacity for research including research support.
- Working in equitable partnerships with collaborators worldwide.
- To ensure genuine involvement of the community in research efforts to address health needs.
- Generate new knowledge in a professional way with honesty and integrity.

Distinctiveness

MITU is distinct in the following areas:

- Extensive experience with health intervention trials.
- Highly skilled and motivated multi-disciplinary research team.
- Access to a range of study populations in rural and urban communities.
- Proficiency in data management and analysis.
- Excellent laboratory facilities.
- Extensive financial management experience.
- Special partnership between the Tanzanian National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM).
- Strong collaborative links with many local and international organizations.

Activities at MITU fall into three main areas: research, capacity building and knowledge translation. This strategy aims to support the delivery of activities in each of these areas.



MITU's overall strategic goals are to:

1. Conduct research in focused areas of global public health significance.
2. Strengthen research capacity in Tanzania and the East African region.
3. Provide effective & efficient management systems supporting research and capacity building activities.
4. Mobilise resources and enhance the visibility of activities implemented by MITU.

Key actions

We plan to implement the following actions by 2021:

- Continue to work in existing areas of research with a focus on public health significance.
- Develop a research platform to generate new knowledge required to combat common health problems in young people.
- Organise periodic international scientific meetings in Mwanza to review scientific evidence and discuss possible future research directions.
- Strengthen existing partnerships and develop new partnerships to deliver excellent and relevant research outputs.
- Support professional development of researchers and administrative staff working in MITU through training and ongoing mentorship.
- Develop and implement a plan for ongoing maintenance/improvement of MITU's systems and facilities.
- Develop a Communications and Media Relations Strategy.
- Recruit and retain staff capable of mobilising resources to support MITU research activities to ensure medium-to long-term sustainability.

1. Research

MITU's research activities are focused around health intervention studies, with a particular emphasis on randomized controlled trials that evaluate the effectiveness of interventions. Special efforts are made to promote the integration of research findings and evidence into healthcare policy and practice. Effective partnerships with other academic institutions, healthcare providers, local communities and other public and private organisations are key.



Aims

The aims of our research are:

1. To understand the underlying factors and dynamics of HIV and other health problems to guide the design of intervention studies to lower disease burden.
2. To develop innovative, equitable and cost-effective intervention strategies to improve health.

3. To determine the burden and risk factors for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and other chronic diseases, assess the ability of health systems to deliver effective care and treatment for these conditions, and evaluate affordable prevention and treatment strategies.
4. To play a leading role in research on the health of adolescents and young people, including work on major infectious diseases, mental health and emerging chronic NCDs.
5. To conduct research contributing to improved reproductive health outcomes.
6. To investigate and address major bottlenecks that impede implementation of health interventions, and to promote the integration of research findings and evidence into healthcare policy and practice.

Objectives

Our research addresses areas of global public health significance with the following objectives:

1. To contribute to the prevention of HIV infection, and care and treatment of those living with the infection.
2. To carry out research informing the delivery of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination and cervical cancer prevention.

Key actions

We plan to implement the following actions by 2021:

1. Sustain a critical mass of senior investigators required to support MITU research activities.
2. Establish a Scientific Advisory Committee to advise the Unit on key areas of research and funding opportunities.
3. Establish a forum for investigators and research scientists within MITU to meet regularly and discuss new research opportunities and work on joint research proposals.
4. Conduct funded research projects to the highest international standards.
5. Collaborating with local and international partners to achieve excellent interdisciplinary research.

Our strategy 2016-21

MITU was established in 2006 by NIMR and London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, with the UK Medical Research Council (MRC) providing the initial funding. Today, MITU is a component part of NIMR Mwanza centre. MITU was founded building on a highly successful and long-standing research collaboration in Mwanza between the two institutions. For more than 25 years, the collaboration has carried out a series of ground breaking research studies on the epidemiology and control of HIV and other sexual health problems. MITU's particular focus has been on randomized controlled trials of preventive interventions, and it has built a reputation as one of the leading centres worldwide for HIV prevention research.

The purpose of the strategy is to guide MITU's activities over the next five years to achieve the following:

- Communicate MITU's mission and core values.
- Review MITU's history, accomplishments, and current activities.
- Accomplishment of MITU's goals.
- Provide the basis for resource mobilization and allocation of future resources.
- Serve as a basis for evaluation of current activities and future directions.

