



Building local capacity

TO FIGHT INFECTIOUS DISEASE

MÉRIEUX FOUNDATION **USA**





OUR MISSION

The Mériex Foundation USA is a public charity dedicated to building capacity in developing countries to improve diagnostic capabilities for local healthcare, and for the **surveillance, alert and response to infectious disease epidemics.**

The foundation focuses on programs to strengthen national laboratory systems for surveillance and applied research, the backbone of effective global prevention and response to epidemics.

Launched in 2011, the Mériex Foundation USA strategically engages American partners to broaden the global reach of the Mériex Foundation model for action, which is based on close collaboration with health authorities and local stakeholders. Its programs are backed by over 50 years of experience in the field, with a longstanding footprint in traditionally Francophone countries of West Africa and Southeast Asia, combined with more recent engagement in neighboring non-Francophone countries in these regions and throughout the world.

The Mériex Foundation USA advances its global mission through partnerships with U.S. government agencies, corporations, nonprofit organizations, foundations, academic centers, and research institutions.

A HISTORY OF SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTING PROGRAMS IN THE FIELD

From applied research in sophisticated laboratories to training, automated data collection and specimen transport, the Mériex Foundation works to build the infrastructure and knowledge that underpin surveillance and clinical diagnosis.

LABORATORY STRENGTHENING

A strong laboratory system is the backbone of disease surveillance and control, and the Mériex Foundation has developed a unique model for laboratory capacity building, working closely with local partners:

- **Assessing** laboratory capabilities:
Capacity mapping and policy reinforcement at the national and regional levels
- **Building** infrastructure and providing equipment and IT systems:
Maintenance, and upgrades to automated data collection and transmission
- **Reinforcing** the expertise needed to support clinical diagnosis and surveillance:
Training, quality control, and biosafety
- **Improving** the management and efficiency of laboratories:
Supervision and individual laboratory assessment
- **Assisting** local health authorities in building a laboratory system:
Sample transport, biobanks, monitoring, networking
- **Conducting** applied research and developing passive and active surveillance:
Technology transfer, new assays and algorithms, epidemiology studies
- **Providing** access to high-quality tools and platforms:
Includes the Jean Mériex-Inserm BSL-4 Laboratory





Global Laboratory Networks

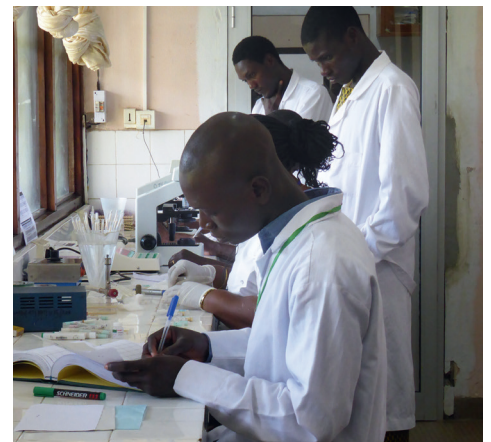
The Mérieux Foundation's capacity-strengthening programs are delivered through its networks of laboratories, research centers and offices. This includes RESAOLAB, an unprecedented seven-country West African network of over 700 diagnostic laboratories, and GABRIEL, a 16-country network of applied research centers.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| AMERICAS | EUROPE |
| 1•UNITED STATES.....● | 12•FRANCE.....● |
| 2•HAITI.....● | |
| 3•BRAZIL.....● | MIDDLE EAST |
| | 13•LEBANON.....● |
| AFRICA | ASIA |
| 4•SENEGAL.....● | 14•BANGLADESH.....● |
| 5•GUINEA.....● | 15•CHINA.....● |
| 6•MALI.....● | 16•LAOS.....● |
| 7•BURKINA FASO.....● | 17•CAMBODIA.....● |
| 8•TOGO.....● | |
| 9•BENIN.....● | |
| 10•NIGER.....● | |
| 11•MADAGASCAR.....● | |

- Core laboratories of the GABRIEL network
- RESAOLAB network member
- Mérieux Foundation USA

RESAOLAB

The West African Network of Biomedical Analysis Laboratories (RESAOLAB) encompasses more than 700 public and private facilities across seven countries. It makes an active contribution to surveillance, with some reference activities extending to all ECOWAS countries, in partnership with WAHO. Created by the Mérieux Foundation in 2009 with the ministries of health of participating countries, this flagship program is the first to take a regional approach to laboratory capacity strengthening and address the need for stronger laboratory governance and performance.



EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DATA MANAGEMENT

The I-Lab project is one of the innovative programs the Mérieux Foundation is implementing through RESAOLAB. Launched in 2015 with the support of the Skoll Global Threats Fund and in partnership with Senegal's National Laboratories Directorate and PATH, I-Lab is connecting all 100+ laboratories across the country into an electronic reporting system to identify potential epidemic threats.

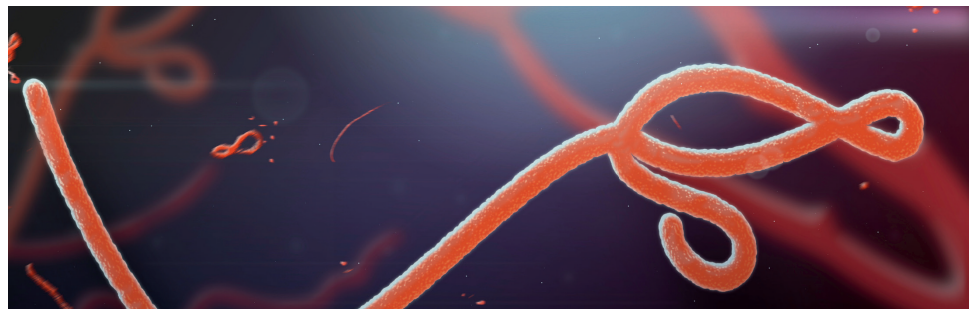




➔ GABRIEL NETWORK

The Global Approach to Biological Research, Infectious diseases and Epidemics in Low-income countries (GABRIEL) is an international scientific network spanning 16 countries that was created by the Mérieux Foundation in 2008 to reinforce the capabilities of laboratories that support applied research and to foster collaboration in the field of infectious diseases.

At the core of the GABRIEL network are the eight **Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratories**, which meet the most exacting international standards. They were built by the Mérieux Foundation and transferred to local partners to improve capacity in regions of the developing world at high risk of infectious disease outbreaks.



➔ ON THE FRONT LINES: EBOLA

Primarily through RESAOLAB, the Mérieux Foundation played a crucial role during the Ebola outbreak in 2014-2015 by:

- ➔ Providing biosecurity training to over 500 health workers, distributing biosafety equipment and facilitating cross-border collaboration among national laboratory directorates.
- ➔ Equipping its Charles Mérieux Center for Infectious Disease in Mali with a mobile laboratory for deployment during remote outbreaks, which is now part of a training program spanning the G5 Sahel countries.
- ➔ Establishing protocols for safe international shipment of samples and arranging shipment to its Jean Mérieux-Inserm BSL-4 Laboratory in Lyon for those countries that did not have the capacity to perform Ebola diagnostic tests locally. It was the Jean Mérieux-Inserm BSL-4 Laboratory that first isolated the Ebola virus responsible for the 2014-2015 epidemic.
- ➔ Providing ambulances and off-road motorcycles for patient and sample transport in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Mali in partnership with the U.S. State Department.



THE MÉRIEUX FOUNDATION WORLDWIDE

The Mérieux Foundation USA provides its support through the same networks and ongoing activities as the Mérieux Foundation, an independent family foundation with public interest status based in Lyon, France, that is committed to fighting the infectious diseases that affect developing countries by building local capacities.

KEY FIGURES & ACHIEVEMENTS



Projects in more than **30** countries



Close to **30** biology training centers built or renovated



A network of **18** applied research units



Over **25** collaborative research programs throughout the world



Close to **15** laboratories built, including 8 Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratories



Over **30** hospital laboratories renovated



Close to **100** staff members in 18 countries



An annual budget of over **20** million euros



Over **5,000** people hosted each year at Les Pensières Center for Global Health

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