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**SAFEGUARDING**

**At CRID, We take the safeguarding of our residents very seriously ●●● PAGE 4**



CRID team at Pamca conference 2023.

# PAMCA 2023 : CRID Played her part

- PAMCA 2023 conference convened experts, researchers, partners, funders, journalists, and the civil society.
- More than 20 researchers and students from CRID actively participated in the PAMCA 2023 conference in Ethiopia.

- The conference showcased research in the form of plenary sessions, panels, and symposia. In total, 810 individuals participated.
- Dr. Billy Tene, researcher, and Tessy Koko, PhD student at CRID, successfully completed the safeguarding training.

## EDITO

### My insights and convictions

**Prof Charles Wondji**

I had the privilege of sharing my insights and convictions with an esteemed audience from around the world. The discussion revolved around «Harnessing the capacities of African institutions for a strengthened response against vector-borne diseases,» a topic close to my heart as the Executive Director of an African-based research institution, CRID. I emphasized the critical role that strong research

institutions play in tackling the burden of vector borne diseases, particularly malaria, in Africa. While we have made significant progress in this area, there is still much work to be done. CRID, along with other organizations, has been at the forefront of producing groundbreaking research results on the continent. However, to have a truly lasting impact, we need to enhanced international collaboration, focused capacity building efforts, and harness additional funding. I firmly believe

that by strengthening African institutions, we can empower local researchers and scientists to lead the fight against vector-borne diseases. Working together, we can create a sustainable response that would not only reduces the burden on affected communities but also contributes to global efforts in combating these diseases. The PAMCA conference 2023 provided valuable platforms to exchange ideas and experiences with experts from diverse backgrounds. I remain very optimistic.

## New staff recruited at CRID

- » **NDO Josepha:** Master student
- » **DEUKAM Michel:** PhD student
- » **BAKAM Michelle Larissa:** PhD student

- » **NTEMBUE Chadrac:** PhD student
- » **SUNGU Pascal:** PhD student
- » **MANN MANYOMBE Martin Luther:** Postdoc

## World Mosquito Day : Tips to protect yourself from mosquito bites

*The presence of mosquitoes is one of the most common problems in tropical and subtropical regions of the world.*



In addition to being disliked for their nuisance, they can also transmit several diseases such as malaria, dengue, and West Nile virus. Find here five simple tips to protect yourself from mosquito bites.

Use repellents; it is important to use special products such as repellents that repel mosquitoes and prevent them from biting us. Sleep under a mosquito net; mosquitoes are flying insects. It is important to take measures to prevent Mosquito to bite the people when they're sleeping. Among these measures is the use of mosquito nets. Eliminate stagnant water; if you leave stagnant water in your garden or on your terrace, it can create an environment conducive to the growth of mosquito populations. Wear protective clothing; wearing long-sleeved clothing can offer additional protection against mosquito bites. The use of insecticides in the fight against mosquitoes is a common strategy employed to control mosquito populations and prevent the transmission of mosquito-borne diseases.

## Capacity Building

### BMGF annual progress evaluation meeting



On September 12, 2023, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) project held her Annual Progress Advancement Meeting. The meeting aimed at evaluating the progress of 11 Ph.D students belonging to the 2020 batch by their respective mentors and supervisors. They specifically, assessed the students' research achievements and determine the next steps in their academic process. This meeting provided an important platform for monitoring and guiding the progress of the students, ensuring they stay on track towards their goals.

through de novo assembly. This experience proved invaluable in strengthening her career as a researcher. Francine is eager to share the knowledge she acquired with her colleagues at CRID in Cameroon. This example highlights the commitment of CRID to support and encourage capacity building among its students.

### CRID team led a data collection session in North Cameroun



A team from CRID comprising of three researchers led by Dr Menze Benjamin, in collaboration with representatives from Presidential Malaria Initiative (PMI) evolved, Population Services International (PSI), the Regional Delegation of Public Health, North Region, the District Health Services (Lagdo and Pitoa) and the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) were in the North Region of Cameroon from September 25th to October 14th, 2023, to implement a study on streamlined durability monitoring of insecticide-treated nets (ITNs) distributed during the 2022 mass campaign in the North Region. Prior to data collection, two training sessions were organized. The aim of this study was to assess ITN loss, the physical integrity and bio-efficacy of insecticides from two brands of ITNs (Duranet® Plus in the Pitoa health district and Interceptor® G2 in Lagdo health district). Results of this study will inform decision-making with the goal of improving the implementation of future mass campaigns, and potentially, the frequency with which they should be conducted.

### Francine Sado attended a workshop at CERI in Cape Town



Francine Sado, a PhD student at CRID, recently received a travel award that enabled her to participate in the Virus Evolution and Molecular Epidemiology (VEME) workshop held at the Centre for Epidemic Response and Innovation (CERI) in Cape Town, South Africa. The workshop took place from August 20<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

During the workshop, Francine actively engaged in the Next-generation sequencing (NGS) module, where she acquired knowledge in viral genomics and transcriptomics analyses. Additionally, she gained expertise in utilizing metagenomics for the identification of new viral taxa

## Grants

### CRID celebrates another small grant



CRID celebrated another small grant on September 13, 2023. Nnamdi Dumbo, a social scientist at CRID, received a \$15,000 grant a few months ago for his project entitled «Rapid Assessment of Malaria burden using an mobile health tool by Community Health Workers in the conflict-affected North-West Region of Cameroon.» This project will span 12 months. We extend our gratitude to the funders: World Health Organization (WHO) AFRO and TDR. Congratulations, Nnamdi ! We wish you success in your project.

## Statistics



**Events**

## ACoMVeC's Annual Meeting was a success



The 1<sup>st</sup> ACoMVeC Annual meeting took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 as a side event at the Pan-African Mosquito Control Association (PAMCA) conference. 30 participants, including Ph.D students, Postdocs, Principal Investigators (PI), and representatives, attended the meeting. The objective was to review project progress, discuss the PhD training program, and engage with stakeholders such as the National Malaria Control Programs. Each PI provided a project update, students shared their perspectives and challenges, and academic supervisors discussed about students supervision. Overall, the meeting facilitated knowledge exchange, cross-countries learning, and ensured alignment with project goals.

## PAMCA 2023: CRID Played her Part

The 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the Pan African Mosquito Association (PAMCA) conference was held from September 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, in Addis

Ababa, Ethiopia. The five-day gathering brought together stakeholders committed to the fight against vector-borne diseases to share advancements, and challenges in this ongoing battle.



Under the theme « Reorienting Surveillance and Management in the Face of Emerging Vector-borne Disease Threats, » the 2023 conference convened experts, researchers, partners, funders, journalists, and the civil society. In total, 810 individuals participated in this annual event. The conference showcase research evidence that delved into various subjects, including malaria control, mosquitoes, research challenges, the role of women in vector control, the effectiveness of research institutions, and funding requirements. More than 20 researchers and students from CRID actively participated in the PAMCA 2023 conference, contributing through oral presentations, poster sessions, engaging in discussions, chairing panels, and attending courses on gene drive and safeguarding. For many of them, attending PAMCA conference 2023 was of utmost importance as it provided an opportunity to address the challenges associated with malaria control. Others believe that it is a good platform to gain deeper insights into the ongoing struggles in combating malaria.

It is also a networking opportunity for most of the Cridians. Two CRID members became Safeguarding Champions. Dr. Billy Tene, researcher, and Tessa Koko, Ph.D, successfully completed the training.

## Satisfactory note for ACoMVeC symposium in Addis Ababa



During the 9<sup>th</sup> PAMCA conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the ACoMVeC symposium took place at Skylight Hotel's Ball Room 2 at 2:00 pm local time on September 18, 2023. With a theme focused on the importance of data-based mathematical models in influencing policies and achieving optimal control of vector-borne diseases, the symposium attracted over 250 participants. Prof. Wondji Charles, Prof. Thomas Churcher, Prof. Ramses Djidjou and Dr. Prashanth, and along with PhD students from African research institutions, delivered presentations. The symposium concluded at 3:30 pm, receiving positive feedback from the attendees.

**VOX-POP**

### What are your thoughts about the just ended PAMCA conference 2023 ?

**“It is imperative to secure more funding, foster international collaborations, and invest in capacity building initiatives.”**

■ Prof Charles Wondji, Executive Director CRID



“In Africa, the establishment of robust research institutions is crucial in the fight against vector-borne diseases like malaria. While significant advancements have been made, there is still a substantial amount of work ahead. The Centre for Research in Infectious Diseases (CRID) in Cameroon, along with other organisations, has played a pivotal role in driving progress in this field. Their steadfast efforts have yielded groundbreaking research outcomes within the continent. However, to continue advancing, it is imperative to secure more funding, foster international collaborations, and invest in capacity building initiatives.”

**“Significant advancements have been made in the development of the Sterile Insect Technique.”**

■ Prof Cyrille Ndo, Head of Parasitology and Microbiology CRID



“It was an opportunity for me to share my work on Sterile Insect Technique (SIT). Significant advancements have been made in the development of the Sterile Insect Technique against the malaria vector *Anopheles arabiensis*. There are still essential steps to be completed before its practical implementation. This technique should not be regarded as a panacea that will eradicate malaria overnight. Rather, it should be considered as a complementary component of an integrated vector management approach.”

**“I got to know about progresses in other areas of research in vector borne diseases.”**

■ Nelly Tchatchoua, Ph.D student at CRID



“The PAMCA conference itself was very enriching. For Four days, I got to see what are the advances being made by researchers in Africa and beyond, in the field of insecticide resistance management and some innovative tools being developed by individual researchers or companies for vector control. In addition, I got to know about progress in other areas of research in vector borne disease capacity building made and it was also a platform to exchange and network with other students.”



## Visits and internship

### Recent interns

During the third quarter of 2023, CRID welcomed four interns from diverse backgrounds, each bringing unique expertise. These interns learned valuable skills and contributed to research efforts at CRID.

### Franck Essengue Enyegue explored the impact of external funding in the fight against malaria



Essengue Enyegue Franck Christian, a student at the International Relations Institute of Cameroon (IRIC), joined CRID as a social science intern, with a research focus on development cooperation and humanitarian action. During his three-months internship, Essengue Enyegue explored the impact of external funding in the fight against malaria especially in humanitarian settings.

### Fotsing Danielle valuable contributions during her internship

Fotsing Makamwe Daniele Grace, bachelor student at the Catholic University of Central Africa (UCAC), successfully completed her internship at CRID. Her research focused on various aspects of finance, providing valuable insights into financial systems and contributing to the understanding of financial dynamics and their implications for decision-making processes. With a strong academic background in finance, Grace's dedication and commitment to expanding knowledge in the field was invaluable during her industrial training.



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### Deukam Michel had the opportunity to delve deeper into his research

Deukam Michel, PhD student, intern at CRID, is currently undertaking a two-month research project in the field of biochemistry. Michel is a biochemistry student at the University of Yaoundé I. Through this internship, he aims to contribute to the field by conducting research in his designated area which is related to epigenetic regulation of insecticide resistance genes



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in malaria vectors. With his strong background in biochemistry and the support of CRID, Michel has the opportunity to delve deeper into his research and make valuable contributions to the field. His internship provides him with a platform to expand his knowledge and skills while actively engaging in meaningful research.

### Bakam Magoua Michelle contributing to future strategies for effective vector control

Bakam Magoua Michelle, Ph.D student, intern at CRID, is currently pursuing a research project in the field of biochemistry and molecular biology. Michelle is studying at the University of Yaoundé I and her research focuses on investigating the role of Sap Genes in insecticide resistance. Through her study, Michelle aims to gain insights into the functional validation of these genes in *A. funestus* and *A. gambiae* mosquitoes. Her research holds potential for advancing the understanding of insecticide resistance mechanisms, contributing to future strategies for effective vector control.



Bakam Magoua Michelle, Ph.D student, intern at CRID, is currently pursuing a research project in the field of biochemistry and molecular biology. Michelle is studying at the University of Yaoundé I and her research focuses on investigating the role of Sap Genes in insecticide resistance. Through her study, Michelle aims to gain insights into the functional validation of these genes in *A. funestus* and *A. gambiae* mosquitoes. Her research holds potential for advancing the understanding of insecticide resistance mechanisms, contributing to future strategies for effective vector control.

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## Safeguarding Protecting adults and children



We take the safeguarding of our residents both adults and children very seriously at CRID. We recognize that everyone has the right to be safe from abuse, neglect and fear and that we all have the responsibility to prevent, recognize and act on abuse and neglect quickly to keep people safe from harm. We put the well-being of our participant and communities at the heart of everything that we do.

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## Scientific Publications

Tchouakui, M., Thiomela, R.F., Nchoutpouen, E. Benjamin D. Menze, Cyrille Ndo, Dorothy Achu, Raymond N. Tabue, Flobert Njiokou, Ateba Joel & Charles S. Wondji. **High efficacy of chlorfenapyr-based net Interceptor® G2 against pyrethroid-resistant malaria vectors from Cameroon.** Infect Dis Poverty 12, 81 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40249-023-01132-w>.



## Partners and funders

