



## **Statement on the transfer of Medical Research Council Unit The Gambia to the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine - May 2018**

MRC Unit The Gambia (MRCG) has been operating in The Gambia for over 70 years. We were a Unit of the Medical Research Council (MRC) UK based in The Gambia until February 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 when we transferred to the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM).

This was part of a general strategy by the MRC UK that started a few years ago to transfer its Units to Universities. Such transfer does not change the way the Unit is managed. The MRCG at LSHTM remains an Africa-based academic research institution as it maintains its scientific independence within the LSHTM, and is considered an entity of its own.

The Unit has strong Research Governance and Research Support Services; there are currently 88 different projects supported by external funds from a variety of donors. The Unit operates in The Gambia through a Memorandum of Understanding with The Gambia Government that provides the legal framework for conducting research, training and provide clinical services which are integrated into The Gambian health system. It also defines the capacity of The Unit to operate in The Gambia, employ staff, own assets, operate bank accounts and take ownership of contractual obligations. The Unit employs more than 1,000 staff in The Gambia and is one of the main taxpayers in the country.

The MRCG at LSHTM works in partnership with The Gambia Government through the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, providing expertise and support to the National Malaria Program, TB National Program, Nutrition National Program, as well as provides support to national immunization, epidemic prone including viral haemorrhagic fevers disease surveillance programs. In addition, The Unit has strong links with University of The Gambia and the Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital in Banjul.

We are proud to mention that the large majority of our staff is from The Gambia or from other African countries and that we allocate a substantial proportion of our core budget to capacity building of African scientists and institutions.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any question or require further clarification. We look forward to collaborating with you.

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Unit Director

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