

Institution: Impact Research & Development Organization (IRDO)
Kisumu, Kenya
www.impact-rdo.org

Contact: Dr. Kawango Agot
Director
Kawango@impact-rdo.org

LAB RESOURCES

Please describe the laboratory facilities available in your research institute, including the items listed below (if applicable):

Lab space and equipment (general):

IRDO has a laboratory space measuring approximately 80 square metres. The laboratory is equipped with the following equipment:

- -80° C freezers
- -40° C freezers
- 2-8° C refrigerators
- Class II Biosafety Cabinet
- Centrifuges
- Microscopes
- RPR rotator
- Weighing balance
- Micro-pipettes
- Vortex
- ELISA Washer
- ELISA Reader
- ELISA Incubator
- Chemistry analyzer (faulty)

Please list the number of research groups in your institute and the size of each group. Which areas of expertise do these research groups focus on?

None

BIOLOGICAL SPECIMEN REPOSITORY

Please describe the biological specimens stored at your institute:

Biological specimens stored at IRDO include:

- Plasma
- Serum
- Upper Layer of Packed Cells (ULPCs)
- Endo-cervical swab elutes

Does your institute have a database of stored samples?

- There is a database for all stored samples.

Please provide details on methods for biological specimen storage at your institute (e.g., are Standardized Operating Procedures used?):

- Standard Operating Procedures are used for biological specimen storage.

Please describe the equipment/facilities available for sample storage at your institute, including items listed below (if applicable):

-80C freezers Yes (2)

Nitrogen storage tanks

- The organization has no nitrogen storage tanks, but the laboratory personnel are proficient in nitrogen storage techniques. Liquid nitrogen is usually supplied by CDC/Kisumu whenever we need it.

Dry ice availability Usually supplied by World Courier whenever we need it.

Use of a nitrogen generator No

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Please describe the training initiatives your institution has in place for individuals prior to working in clinical studies:

- Generally, all staff are required to undertake an online ethics course (CITI) before being engaged in human research studies.

Please describe the training initiatives your institution has in place for individuals prior to working in the laboratory:

- IRDO does not finance training for individuals. However, staff are encouraged to participate in any of the trainings organized by some of our collaborative or funding partners, such as the University of Washington

and CDC respectively. Some of the trainings that have been held in the past include Good Clinical Practice and Principles for HIV Research.

What assays/techniques do you excel in at your institute? What training could you provide to visiting scientists?

- HIV testing
- HBsAg testing
- HBsAb ELISA testing
- Pregnancy testing
- Urinalysis
- Bacterial vaginosis Nugent score
- RPR and TPHA testing
- Biochemistry analyses
- Samples processing
- Storage and shipment

Do you offer training classes/courses for any of the following (*please indicate if a particular course is not listed*):

Grant Writing

Not offered directly, but staff get opportunities to get the training from our collaborative partners.

Manuscript/abstract writing

Same as above

Computer skills, excel, prism, endnote, word, powerpoint

No

Presentation skills

No

Epidemiology

No

Biostatistics

No

Does your institute receive funds to support training initiatives? No

Does your institution send trainees abroad for additional training? No

What Masters and/or Doctoral programs does your institution offer? None

COLLABORATIONS

Please list and briefly describe your current collaboration with any African institutions for either research or training purposes:

- We are currently collaborating with researchers affiliated to the University of Nairobi in two different research studies titled "Widow inheritance (WI) and sexual networks (SN) among the Luo: developing culturally

appropriate interventions in the context of evolving traditions” and “Gender specific Combination HIV Prevention for Youth in High Burden Settings”.

Please list your institution’s plans for future collaborations within Africa (additional groups, sites, countries, etc.).

- None in the pipeline

Please list and briefly describe your institution’s collaborations and/or partnerships with entities outside of Africa (e.g., organizations and networks in the USA, Europe, etc. – including CFARS, NIH clinical trials networks, HPTN, HVTN, AMC, leDEA, USAID, PEPFAR, etc.):

- IRDO has an ongoing collaboration with the University of Washington, USA for the study “Widow Inheritance (WI) and Sexual Networks (SN) among the Luo: developing culturally appropriate interventions in the context of evolving traditions”, whose Principal Investigator is a lecturer at the UW.
- New York University and IRDO will be collaborating in a recently awarded research grant for a study titled “Gender specific Combination HIV Prevention for Youth in High Burden Settings”.

CLINICAL COHORTS

Do you have access to existing clinical cohorts in Africa or USA? No

Are you planning to establish any new clinical cohorts over the next 5 years? No

DATA MANAGEMENT

Please describe the DATA MANAGEMENT FACILITIES available in research institute, including the items listed below (if applicable):

- IRDO has a data department headed by a data manager with several data officers and data clerks stationed across eight districts in Nyanza province where IRDO is currently implementing HIV prevention. Statistical programs normally used in IRDO are STATA and SPSS, but the most commonly used is SPSS. All our datasets are entered and stored in MS-Access.

Data management expertise, including staff complement (general):

- IRDO recruits highly competent staff in the data department. The data manager is required to have a minimum of a Bachelors degree in mathematics or statistics with several years of experience in managing data from multiple sources.

On-site database design, implementation and trouble-shooting:

Details of off-site support (by whom):

- We receive off-site data management support most from CDC, which is currently our major funder. For specific assignments, we sometimes request involvement of statisticians from our implementation partners in the Province, such as Family AIDS Care and Education Services.

BIOSTATISTICAL SUPPORT

Please describe the BIOSTATISTICAL SUPPORT available in your research institute, including the items listed below (if applicable):

Biostatistical expertise, including staff complement/composition of PhD and Masters level biostatisticians:

- We currently do not have any staff trained in biostatistics.