

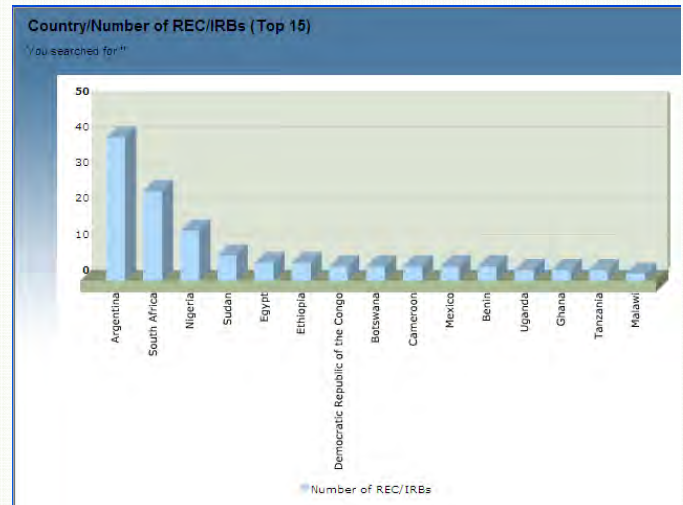
About MARC

The MARC project, a three-year project funded by the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP), is aimed at creating a **'sustainable, interactive and self-updating web-based African map'** of Research Ethics Review and Drug Regulatory Capacity. MARC is implemented through a partnership between COHRED (the Council on Health Research for Development) and the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) – in particular SARETI (the South African Research Ethics Training Initiative).

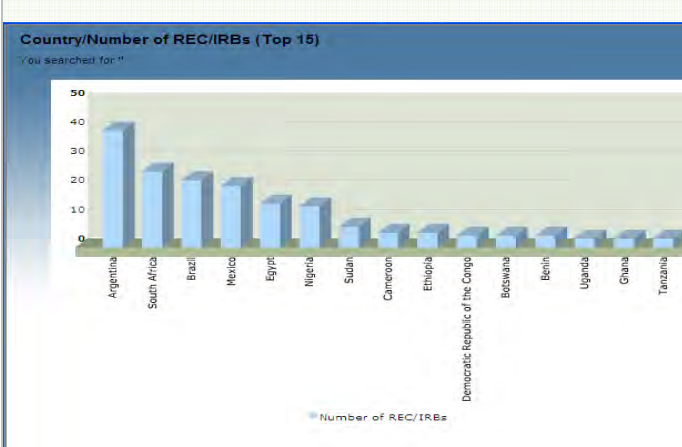
For more information, visit the MARC website: www.researchethicsweb.org

Research Ethics Committees (RECs) / Per Country

Graph below shows the number of RECs per Country (those uploaded on HRWeb): Top 15 countries



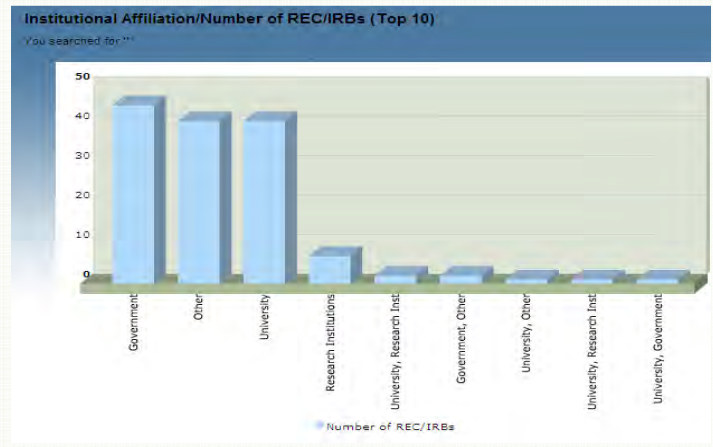
Expanding Across Continents



As the MARC Initiative progresses, other countries share the same priorities: the importance of mapping RECs on HRWeb.

Reflected above, countries such as Argentina, Mexico and Brazil have started to map RECs on HRWeb.

REC Type



Reflected above: Most RECS in Africa are affiliated with the Government and Universities respectively.





















Progress to date: African RECs

The table below shows the number of Research Ethics Committees (red or yellow numbers) per country, which have been mapped /uploaded on Health Research Web.

Country	Level One	Level Two
Algeria	2	
Benin	4	
Burkina Faso	2	
Cameroon	4	1
Cote d'Ivoire	1	
DRC	5	2
Ethiopia	5	3
Madagascar	1	
Senegal	1	
Tunisia	1	
Nigeria	14	
Botswana	5	3
Egypt	15	7
Zambia	1	
Togo	1	1
Level one Total:	118	

County	Level 1	Level 2
Gabon	1	
Malawi	2	2
Libya	1	
Ghana	3	1
Kenya	1	1
Mauritius	2	
Namibia	1	
Zimbabwe	2	1
Uganda	3	
Tanzania	3	
Sudan	8	
South Africa	26	9
Liberia	2	1
Republic of Congo	1	
	Level Two Total:	32

Kindly help us populate the HRWeb Research Ethics Pages of the Countries listed below (see more information on page 5 on how to create a MARC account for your REC)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
|  Somalia |  Chad |  Eritrea |  Lesotho |
|  Sierra Leone |  The Gambia |  Guinea Bissau |  Seychelles |
|  Niger |  Mauritania |  Djibouti |  Swaziland |
|  Morocco |  Mali |  Equatorial Guinea |  Rwanda |
|  Western Sahara |  Sao Tome & Principe |  Burundi |  Mozambique |
|  Guinea |  Comoros |  Angola |  Central African Republic |

Latest Events

The MARC Project was presented at the Pan African Bioethics Initiative (PABIN) Meeting held in Addis Ababa, in March 2011

MARC Ambassadors

✿ For optimal outreach of all African regions without language being a barrier, MARC recently brought on board two Ambassadors:



Dr Ouwe Missi Odile Oukem
Cameroon

Email: oukem@cohred.org



Professor Azza Saleh Radwan
Egypt

Email: radwan@cohred.org

The ambassadorial appointment is an honorary one, and the ambassador's unique role is to 'fly the MARC flag high' within the African Research Ethics arena.

Medicines Regulatory Authorities

MARC's secondary objective is to map Medicines Regulatory Authorities (MRAs) and facilitate better links between MRAs and Research Ethics committees.



Mary Kasule
Uganda

Email: kasule@cohred.org

We would like to introduce and congratulate Mary Kasule from Uganda. She will join the MARC team as the Senior Research Officer for the Medicines Regulatory Authorities, effective 1st of June 2011.

Collaborations and partnerships with African-based Bioethics Initiatives

✿ As of 1st of March 2011, MARC collaborated with the Cameroon Bioethics Initiative (CAMBIN) as part of building, supporting and strengthening African Institutional Capacity.

The MARC/CAMBIN Team's main role is to intensify the MARC initiatives in the African Francophone region.



MARC Ambassadors meeting held at OR Tambo Airport City Lodge Hotel. From Left to Right: Professor Doug Wassenaar, Dr Ouwe Missi Odile Oukem, Boitumelo Mokgatla-Moipolai & Professor Carel IJsselmuiden

Moving Towards Sustainability: Health Research Web (HRWeb) at a Glance

Health Research Web
HRWeb: Key Information for health research management

What is HRWeb?

Click on country of interest or select from the dropdown menu:

Users of this site: Governments, Researchers & Academic Institutions, Sponsors & Donors, Civil Society Organisations, Researchers, Media, Health & Science Writers, Informed Citizens.

World Health Organization
Global Strategy and Plan of Action
Monitoring & Evaluation Platform

The Monitoring and Evaluation Platform for the Global Strategy on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property

The global strategy

Dimensions of Strategy

WHO Regional Offices

Capabilities

MARS
Putting African Research Ethics Review Capacity on the Map

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South Africa

MARS is a joint project between:

COHRED – the Council on Health Research for Development, Geneva, Switzerland

SARETH – the South African Research Ethics Training Initiative, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

MARS receives support from EDCIP.

INDEPTH Network

INDEPTH Network

Click on the country of interest or select from the dropdown menu:

INDEPTH Sites

INDEPTH Member Centre Audit

African Science, Technology & Innovation Indicators Initiative
Bringing the immense power of science and technology to bear on Africa's development

Please select the country of interest:

Country:

Log in:

Login:
Password:

Countries Participating in the ASTII Initiative

Health Research Web

HRWeb West Africa

Collaboration:

West African Health Organization

Navigation:

- Home Page
- A growing resource
- HRWeb Governance
- Milestones
- Supporters
- COHRED

Countries of this region:

region and countries:

toolbox:

- How to get started?
- User Guide
- How can you contribute?
- Priority Setting
- HRWeb/ICS
- Country Background
- Country Reviewers
- Contact us

A Social Enterprise Model

Certain users will support development and functionality of HRWeb by subscriptions or specific project support, making HRWeb a sustainable **ONE STOP** Resource Tool

Visit: www.healthresearchweb.org

Direct benefits of listing RECs on MARC

- Instant visibility of REC with local and international donors
- Positive competitive pressure (to improve quality and efficiency of RECs)
- Free web platform for RECs without web facilities.
- Instant access to information on other RECs: allows benchmarking and sharing of resources: e.g. ethics documents, SOPs
- Links research ethics review to national and regional research priorities.
- Auto-analysis for MARC staff to identify REC and regional capacity building needs and target interventions.

Future benefits of listing RECs on MARC

- RECs can use the MARC web as their management system
- African web-based tool / resource to facilitate systematic owned platform to facilitate standards and quality of RECs and ethics review in Africa.
- Linking to global research ethics experiences
- Map of African Medicine Regulatory Authorities (MRA) / National Regulatory Authority), hence facilitation of better links between MRAs and RECs.
- REC African Social Networking Platform funded by Fogarty International Centre, US NIH.
- Online Questions and Debate Research Ethics Groups (e.g. Multi-Centre Trials)

Create a free MARC Account for your REC and increase REC visibility

We kindly invite you to be part of this groundbreaking innovation by creating an account for your research ethics committee and start using HRWeb / MARC Ethics Page. Follow the 4-Easy Steps below:

- 1.) Create an account**
- 2.) Get your password**
- 3.) Log in**
- 4.) Upload your RECs information**

There is no fee as the project is sponsored by EDCTP.

We intend to work hard at establishing and strengthening partnerships with African-based bioethics initiatives, and also participate actively in African Bioethics Activities.

Lastly, the MARC team would like to extend their sincere appreciation to all the Research Ethics Committee members for their cooperation and willingness to share information. As we speed into the 2nd half of 2011, all the best in your endeavors to provide a comprehensive ethical oversight of Health Research in Africa.

We look forward to a very close interaction with you.

Please forward this newsletter to any interested parties and colleagues.

For more information on MARC, please visit our website:

www.researchethicsweb.org

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Your feedback on this newsletter is most welcome.