

Infectious Diseases Data Observatory (IDDO)

About IDDO

Launched in 2016, The Infectious Diseases Data Observatory (IDDO) is a scientifically independent, multi-disciplinary coalition of the global infectious disease community. It is a data sharing platform that provides the methods, governance and infrastructure to translate data into evidence that improves outcomes for patients worldwide. IDDO builds on and incorporates the pioneering work of the WorldWide Antimalarial Resistance Network (WWARN), a collaborative data-sharing framework begun in 2009 that proved it was possible to produce policy-changing scientific evidence from historical data.

IDDO is unique among data-sharing initiatives. By aggregating many different types of data and standardising these to create larger-scale datasets, it enables global research collaborations to pose new scientific questions. It works with research communities to identify and prioritise research questions, provide tools and resources that improve the design and quality of clinical studies, and standardise pooled individual-patient data. IDDO facilitates complex meta-analyses that generate evidence on the efficacy of existing medicines, inform the development of new ones and advance understanding of disease.

IDDO has over 500 research partners and holds over 700k individual patient data sets, all protected by a data governance framework that promotes equitable credit for researchers who collect and share data and secures the privacy of individuals and communities from whom data originate. The evidence resulting from analysis of these data is shared widely to inform both policymakers and future researchers globally to continually advance knowledge and build capacity for evidence-based practice.

Proposals to launch new research themes originate from those in, or working with, disease endemic research communities. This community-driven process with early engagement of investigators in the regions most affected, is one of the key steps in delivering successful outcomes.

Currently, IDDO has nine active areas of research work: COVID-19, malaria, febrile illness, Ebola virus disease, visceral leishmaniasis, medicine quality, Chagas disease, schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminthiasis. More are already in development or being scoped for potential impact. New proposals and collaborations are always welcomed at info@iddo.org.